

JULT Annual Meeting
May 7, 2018

Present: Yuir Bihun, Lynn Blevins (Williston), Nancy Carey, Jim Carroll, Betsy Chapek, Bob Coburn, Mary Coburn, Bruce Cowan (Essex), Alicia Daniel, Mary Jane Dickerson, Clarke Dodge, Pam Dodge, Luke Donley, Kit Emery, Dave Ganter, Jenny Gayne, Chris Gluck, Monica John, John Koier, David Krueger, Gus Krueger, Grace Nelson, Phyl Newbeck, Kristian Omlan, Sue Morse, Kathy Rogers, S. Roberge Tom Rogers, Julie Schroeder, John Schroeder, Andrea Shortsleeve, Aaron Smith, Dan Steinbauer, Jan Steinbauer, Livy Strong, Bobbie Summers, Hilaire Thomas, Carol Warren, Gary Warren, Steve Webster Brian Werneke, Christine Werneke, Hunter Werneke, Owen Werenke, and Deb Wright (Essex)

Livy introduced the JULT board members. John Koier heads our Stewardship Committee, Phyl Newbeck is the Secretary and Hilaire Thomas is our Treasurer. She recognized John Schroeder who has just stepped down as a board member.

Livy reported that we have been working with other landowners and talking about what it means to conserve land. These are not easy decisions. They take time and are always instigated by the landowners. We also work with various committees in Jericho and Underhill. JULT now owns over 800 acres. We pay taxes and our properties are all enrolled in Current Use. We talk to landowners and community members and want to know the desires of members of our community. Our only funding comes from membership dues so Livy invited members to join.

Last year two donors purchased properties which they donated to the land trust. One donation was a gift of ten acres on Skunk Hollow Road where Cubby Blades grazes his cattle and which has a beautiful view of Mt. Mansfield. Another citizen donated 71 acres of forestland, also off Skunk Hollow Road. Both of these sections abut Kikas Valley Farm and are being included in that property.

We have been busy working with a landowner in Underhill to preserve a scenic hayfield. We are in discussions with the Balch family which owns the hayfield and hillside adjacent to Mills Riverside Park. They may be donating some land to the park. We are also talking to neighbors on Fitzsimonds Road who are concerned about potential development of another hayfield. On the east side of Mills Riverside Park there is a landowner who wants to donate a portion of their land. We are also in discussion with the Mobbs Farm Committee because that land is not permanently conserved, even though it is owned by the town of Jericho.

We have a number of events coming up. There is an annual bird walk at Mills Riverside Park at 7 a.m. on May 12 and a wildflower walk on May 19. On June 16 there will be a walk on the newly donated land adjacent to Kikas Valley Farm.

John Koier provided the stewardship report. JULT has permanently conserved 1591 acres of forest and farmland in our local communities. 763 acres are owned and maintained by our all-volunteer organization. We are committed as an organization to keep these properties accessible, well-marked and their wildlife habitats intact. Some of the stewardship activities we engage in

are: trail and access maintenance, boundary marking and monitoring, invasive plant management, complying with forestry management plans and hunting safety signage.

Among last year's activities were replacing the failed walking bridge at Wolfrun to provide safe access to the historic Cairns Area; removing all the deer stands from the woodlands of Kikas Valley Farm and Wolfrun Natural Area; completing the third phase of prescribed Forestry Plan work on Wolfrun by removing several cords of firewood that our forester had marked for removal to thin stand #5; and spending several hours hand-removing Japanese Barberry from Kikas Valley Farm where we are getting some professional help to develop an Invasive Plant Action Plan to systematically address this problem.

Hilaire reported that we have roughly \$100,000 in checking and savings accounts and the Vermont Community Loan Foundation. The land trust is worth over one million dollars but most of it is tied up in land. Last year we took in \$28,681 in income of which \$26,3000 came from memberships, \$1,000 from a stock donation, \$1,225 from memorial donations and \$143 in interest. We spent \$12,838 with the largest sums for property taxes, printing, insurance, legal expenses and web hosting (in descending order) giving us a net income for the year of \$15,842.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, John Koier, Phyl Newbeck and Livy Strong were elected to serve new three-year terms. Additionally, a motion was made to elect Sabina Ernst who was unavailable to attend the meeting to a three-year term, as well.

Livy introduced biologist Tom Rogers from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department who gave a talk entitled Vermont's Wildlife in a Changing Climate.