

## Jericho Underhill Land Trust Annual Meeting – May 6, 2013

Board Members present: John Koier, Phyl Newbeck, John Schroeder, Livy Strong and Hilaire Thomas

Members present: Gerry Adams, Jean Archibald, Connie Belkowitz, Caroline Wadhams Bennett, Peter Bennett, Nancy Carey, Brian and Erica Duda, Peter Duval, Cindy Hamlet, Barbie Koier, JoAnn Konczal, Donna and John Kunkel, Caroline Leightons, Irene Linde, Louise Mathews, Jim Morris, Bill and Catherine McMains, Craig Newman, Mary Pacifici, Grover and Marcia Prescott, Devin Rowe, and Julie Schroeder.

Livy Strong, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00

### 1. Introductions

Livy introduced all the board members and explained their roles. John Koier is Vice Chair and head of the land stewardship committee, John Schroeder has helped with all our printing needs and works on land stewardship, Hilaire is Treasurer and Financial Secretary, and Phyl is Secretary. We can always use volunteers for our many endeavors.

### 2. Voting

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of 2012 were approved with one amendment. Upon another motion duly made and seconded, JULT members voted to re-elect Hilaire Thomas to a three-year term on the Board of Directors.

### 3. Financial Report

Hilaire Thomas reported that in 2012 we took in \$20,515 including \$15,500 in memberships, \$1,000 in memorial donations, \$486 from an endowment and \$360 for renting out Kikas Valley Farm. We spent less than \$17,000 with \$918 for forestry work, \$1,900 for printing, \$1,700 in property taxes, \$8,725 on Wolfrun Natural Area expenses, \$300 in charitable donations, \$408 for web hosting, \$917 for postage, and \$200 in account fees. We ended up \$3,600 ahead of last year which was impressive given the fact that we twice had to spend money to repair a land bridge at Wolfrun Natural Area. We also helped the Vermont Land Trust purchase the Bolton Nordic and Backcountry Lands and had one contributor who asked us to pass along money to them, rather than give to VLT directly.

Our net worth is \$759,000 of which \$660,487 is in fixed assets, \$26,000 is in a money market account, \$53,000 is in investments, \$12,500 is in a checking account and \$7,000 is with the Vermont Community Foundation or roughly \$98,000 in liquid assets.

### 4. Land Stewardship

JULT owns Kikas Valley Farm which is 280 acres off Skunk Hollow Road with several acres

leased to Paul Mazza for agricultural use. The rest is forest which abuts the Fay Farm and Barber Farm. We also own Wolfrun Natural Area off Leary Road. Collectively we own roughly 700 acre with both properties enrolled in the State Current Use program. Some of our funds are set aside for property maintenance and we also hold work days on some of the properties.

John Koier reported on recent land stewardship activities. On April 28 we had a work day in which we cleared the entire South Trail at Wolfrun Natural Area. We have posted the agricultural part of Kikas Valley Farm, but the rest of the property is available for traditional pursuits. John described how the land bridge which is the only access to Wolfrun Natural Area blew out during a flood when a beaver dam gave out. We repaired the bridge, only to have it wash out again during Tropical Storm Irene. We recently updated the conservation plan for Wolfrun Natural Area, a process which has to be done every ten years. The forestry plan for Gateway requires some logging which we are planning on doing this year. The plan calls for several small clear cuts. Lastly, we are planning to host a day to eradicate Japanese knotweed with the help of the Jericho Conservation Commission at Mills Riverside Park. Maps for some of our properties are available on the Trail Finder website which was developed by Local Motion.

Joanne Konczal asked JULT to publish a map showing all our properties. John Koier said we are working on that.

#### 4. Summary of 2012

Livy reported that in 2012 we were “quietly busy,” talking to families about land conservation, walking properties, sitting at dining room tables and preparing ourselves to take on projects should they materialize. We spent some time collaborating with VLT on the Bolton project. We also talk to town Conservation Commissions and Select Boards. We worked on a strategic conservation plan to help us prioritize which areas are significant in our two towns. We updated our criteria to help us be ready if there is land that can be conserved. We have tried to hold events such as walks and work days. We are also working with the Jericho Trails Committee. There is a question about who takes over maintenance of a trail on private property where there is a conservation easement and we want to involve them in our efforts. With no major land projects, 2012 was spent working on collaboration, building relationships and building our membership. All our funding comes through membership donations so in 2012 we spent some time to increase our membership.

Livy invited members to join the Board of Directors or simply provide their expertise for any task such as mapping or computer skills. Then she introduced our guest speaker Craig Newman from Outreach for Earth Stewardship.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Phyl Newbeck  
JULT Secretary