

Jericho Underhill Land Trust Annual Meeting  
May 15, 2017

Members Present: Wendy Vervei Berenback, Eric Bishop, Nancy Carey, Sabina Ernst, Charles, Clare, Gretchen and Jean Siegchrist, Barbie and John Koier, Bill and Catherine McMains, Fred Nelson, Grace Nelson, Phyl Newbeck, Livy Strong, and Hilaire Thomas

1. Introduction: Livy introduced the Board members - John Koier who heads up land stewardship, Phyl Newbeck who serves as Secretary, John Schroeder who heads up our marketing and communications, and Hilaire Thomas who serves as Treasurer, as well as Sabina Ernst who is a member of our land stewardship committee.
2. Minutes: Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the minutes of the 2016 annual meeting were approved.
3. Financial Report: Hilaire reported that we took in \$16,333 during 2016, almost entirely from memberships, and spent only \$8,213. One change in our financial situation is that last year we moved some of our funds to the Vermont Community Loan Fund which provides loans to small Vermont businesses and non-profits. JULT has assets worth \$798,000 but that includes real estate holdings. Our liquid assets are \$138,000, some of which are not easily accessible.
4. Land Stewardship: John Koier reported that JULT has permanently conserved 1,511 acres of forest, fields and farmland in our local communities. 682 of those acres are owned and maintained by our all-volunteer organization. We are committed as an organization to keeping 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. Here are a few of our activities from 2016:
  - A. June: A routine boundary monitoring trip by our easement holder, the Vermont Land Trust, revealed several trees cut across a neighbor's boundary on JULT land at Kikas Valley Farm. John accompanied our VLT monitoring crew, discovered that there were two marked corners and thanks to their GPS equipment, the correct corner pin was located, marked clearly, and the neighbor was notified of discrepancy.
  - B. October 30: We held a field trip to a ¾-acre clear cut on Wolfrun. Heavy rain was falling, so only two hardy individuals accompanied John.
  - C. November 7: New rules and regulation signs were affixed to both Wolfrun entrance gates.
  - D. November 15: John followed up on a report of ATV incursion on Wolfrun near Moose Pond, but he and Livy were unable to locate any tracks.

E. April 25: John met Sabrina Ernst who had located three deer hunting tree stands at Kikas Valley Farm. They subsequently found one more and contacted the game warden who removed and disposed of them two days later.

5. Upcoming events:

A. Trail maintenance at Wolfrun Natural Area on May 27. Those interested are asked to meet at 9 a.m. at the north entrance and bring work tools.

B. On May 18 at 6:30 p.m., Evergreen Erb will be at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library with a slide show about spring migrating birds. This will be followed by the annual bird walk on May 20 at 7 a.m. which will be co-led by Sabina Ernst.

C. On August 5<sup>th</sup>, JULT, the Jericho Underhill Park District and the Vermont Land Trust will celebrate VLT's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Mills Riverside Park.

6. 2016 recap: We continue to work with communities, towns and other land trusts to conserve scenic vistas, important wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and agricultural land. We are poised for an active project. There has been some land conservation during the year including 100 acres on Milo White Road which has a trail system with public access and will connect to Mobbs Farm. We have met with land owners and various committees and commissions such as Conservation Commissions, the Jericho Trails Committee, and the Mobbs Farm Committee. Mobbs Farm is town owned but is not permanently conserved and Livy would like to see it conserved permanently.

7. Film Introduction: We are proud to be showing the film The Barber Farm Project. Livy said the film embodies what we do including how the land trusts work with families. It also shows how long some projects take. Livy introduced Gretchen Siegchrist who introduced her film.