

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – February 6, 2022

Board members present via Zoom: John Koier, Phyl Newbeck, Livy Strong, and Hilaire Thomas

Livy Strong called the meeting to order at 7:03.

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of January, 2022 were approved.

2. Financial Report

In January we took in \$12,946 consisting of \$1,395 in memberships, \$5,375 in contributions for the Davis Farm and \$6,175 for Riverside Meadow. There are also Pay Pal contributions which haven't shown up yet. We spent \$3,030 consisting of \$2,442 for web hosting which includes money for redesigning our website and \$588 for printing.

We have received \$173,000 towards the Riverside Meadow which may eliminate the need to ask for money from the Jericho Conservation Fund. We need \$50,000 for the Davis Farm. The original idea was fundraising for \$30,000 and asking the town for \$20,000 but we already raised \$38,000 so we may not need to ask for any money. We have until June to raise the rest of the funds for Davis. We have received some significant contributions for both properties.

Our total assets are \$1,312,985 consisting of \$985,487 in fixed assets, \$92,025 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$46,197 in our money market account, \$140,320 in our checking account, \$28,569 in Schwab investments, \$11,188 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$9,197 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

3. Membership/fundraising

Everyone who makes a donation to either project becomes a member if they are not already one. This means that our membership has grown by between 20 and 25 new members.

4. Land projects

We have passed our original goal for fundraising for the Davis Farm and have ample time to finish fundraising without asking the town for money. Livy has asked Tammy Davis to reach out to her personal friends and she has done that. We are getting donations from as far as South Carolina which Livy believes is due to Tammy's reaching out. Livy will look at our Facebook page to see if she can refresh the fundraising section.

Riverside Meadow got a great boost from board members but there has also been a huge outpouring of generous donations from people who appreciate the view. If we are successful in raising \$200,000 (which looks likely even though we've only been raising money for a month), Livy wants to continue raising money to see if Vermont Land Trust might be interested in holding an easement on the land. She believes it would be close to \$40,000 to ensure that they

can protect the land in perpetuity. The Board agreed that this would be a good idea. We have asked the town for \$20,000 from the Conservation Reserve Fund and we may be able to use that money for the easement. The Charrons are appealing part of the Development Review Board's decision to the Environmental Court but they said that this will not affect our proposed purchase.

The conservation easement for Mobbs is still in draft form and being discussed by VLT and the Jericho attorney. While VLT was at Mobbs doing baseline documentation, they found a well that nobody knew existed and that might slow things down even further.

5. Land stewardship

John reported ongoing communication with three government entities regarding grant funding:

Eileen Powers of the Department of Agriculture regarding CREP funding for stream side restoration on the 10-acre pasture at Kikas Valley Farm

Dave Adams of VT Fish and Wildlife regarding EQUIP funding for more invasive barberry mitigation at Kikas Valley Farm.

Danny Peet of the Department of Agriculture on working with Paul Mazza to establish some erosion control and best practices for the leased agricultural acreage at Kikas Valley Farm.

John noted that the Mansfield Nordic Club has laid down groomed tracks for skiing on the agricultural land at Kikas Valley Farm which led him to reach out to Dave Aioldi who is on the Wingate Homeowners Association about the current parking situation. We stopped plowing the JULT parking lot years ago and John wonders if we should consider having it plowed again in light of possible increased activity. The Board agreed that we should find someone to start plowing again.

Chittenden County Forester, Ethan Tapper will be walking Wolfrun with John on March 23 at 8:30 am to review our management plan. All are welcome to join.

John has spoken with Will Dunkley about next summer's invasive work. Still hoping to get some government funding to help offset these costs.

Livy reminded the Board that we had agreed to reach out to the Abenaki community. Sabina had said she would try to find someone to talk to.

6. Events

Livy thinks we should have an outdoor party at Kikas Valley Farm during the summer (maybe August) rather than the annual meeting in May to celebrate the conclusion of our successful fundraising projects. We would have a tent and catered food.

Livy will follow up on ideas raised by Lisa and Sabina last month for future events. We can work with the library which does a good job of programming for kids.

7. Publicity

Livy reminded Board members to send any photos of local land trust land so we can update our photos in Mailchimp, on our website, Instagram, and Facebook.

8. Community news

The Farmers' Market had its annual meeting. John is the board chair and is looking forward to another good season.

9. Any other business

John wanted to know if PayPal takes a percentage of donations. They do but we get a lot of donations from PayPal so it's worth it. People have been going to our website to make donations. Perhaps we can consider giving people the option to cover the cost of using it which a number of websites do. One of John's neighbors has made little paddles for each member of the Land Trust board. Together they have made over 50 birdhouses, offering them for free to members of the public and as door prizes at the Vermont Audubon Center. He suggested that perhaps JULT could do something with them. Livy also suggested putting some up at Mills Riverside Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary