

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – March 7, 2022

Board members present via Zoom: Sabina Ernst, John Koier, Michael Lazorchak, Phyl Newbeck, Lisa Paone, 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 February, 2022 were approved.

2. Financial Report

In February we took in \$65,576 consisting of \$325 in memberships, \$3,125 in contributions for the Davis Farm, and \$62,125 for Riverside Meadow. We spent \$2,516 consisting of \$275 in Kikas Valley Farm property taxes, \$202 for legal expenses for the Charron property, \$425 in membership dues for the Land Trust Alliance, \$450 in membership expenses for notepads to send to renewing members, and \$1,164.51 for Wolfrun property taxes. We have enough in the bank to finalize the purchase of the Riverside Meadow.

Our total assets are \$1,387,149 consisting of \$985,487 in fixed assets, \$92,222 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$46,198 in our money market account, \$214,286 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. Land Stewardship

John Koier got an appointment with Eileen Powers and finished the CREP application for the ten-acre pasture portion of Kikas Valley Farm where the cows graze. If all goes well, the stream improvement work may begin in early May. John is working with Danny Peet and Dave Adams to get some EQIP grant money to help with invasives at Kikas Valley Farm. Danny has agreed to walk with Paul Mazza this spring to discuss implementing best practices at Kikas Valley. No date has been set.

Steve Schwartz of the Trails Committee will be walking with John at Wolfrun Natural Area with the goal of setting up a trailhead kiosk this spring. We need to decide what we'd like to have displayed there. Sabina suggested posting a formal land acknowledgement statement to honor the original stewards of the land.

Livy has emailed Abenaki chief Don Stevens and he has provided a lot of information on things we can look at to celebrate Abenaki heritage at Kikas Valley Farm. Some arrowheads were found in test pits by the University of Maine during the Wingate development. We may also have another walk at Wolfrun regarding the cairns. Sabina suggested using a geo-referenced map of the Wolfrun property to import into Avenza where we would be able to place pins at the cairn locations to make them easier for us to find. John will ask our forester for Wolfrun, Alan Thompson, if he can make us a map.

4. Land Projects

This morning our attorney received the signed agreement from the Charron's attorney. The process has taken roughly six years.

Jericho's town attorney has approved the conservation easement for Mobbs. This will be first opportunity for the town to use the Conservation Reserve Fund so Livy will be attending any Select Board meeting on the subject. JULT and Jericho Conservation Commission members are willing to assist with the CRF process if needed.

5. Events

Our annual meeting will be in August.

Our annual bird walk is set and we are working on a spring wildflower walk, as well.

We may also sponsor a workshop on growing mushrooms with limited registration led by Warren Ellison.

Sabina suggested working with Vermont Coverts in the future if we want to partner up with other conservation groups for presentations.

6. Publicity

Notecards will go out to all our donors.

We will be updating our website. Our PayPal is actually listed under the name of a former board member and that needs to be changed.

7. Community News

Sabina said the Conservation Commission will be working with Don Tobi, the Jericho Tree Warden to inventory the ash trees along roadsides in the town right of way. They will be looking for volunteers from the community to help collect data. The Conservation Commission is also planning on having a bat conservation presentation in late spring.

Lisa said the principal of Jericho Elementary School will be leaving at the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary