

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – June 6, 2022

Board members present: John Koier, Michael Lazorchak, Phyl Newbeck, Livy Strong, Hilaire Thomas, and Zephyr.

Livy Strong called the meeting to order at 7:10

1. Review of minutes

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

2. Financial Report

In May we took in \$270 consisting almost entirely of membership money with \$35 for the Davis Farm purchase. We spent \$23,680 with the lion's share (\$23,006) going towards the Mobbs property, \$637 for printing, and \$30 for cards for the wildflower walk. We have paid for Mobbs and Riverside and have enough money to pay for the Davis property.

Our total assets are \$1,403,726 consisting of \$1,185,502 in fixed assets, \$92,415 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,199 in our money market account, \$63,657 in our checking account, \$28,571 in Schwab investments, \$11,188 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$9,197 at the Vermont Community Foundation. We have a CD that matures in August.

Hilaire would like to step down as Treasurer. She will continue keeping track of membership, but she is hoping someone else might take over. Lisa is away but the hope is that she has the skill set and might be willing to do that. Livy will also put something in Front Porch Forum in the hope that one of our members would be an option.

- 3 Financial Report

Upon a motion duly made by and seconded, the board approved the 990 Form.

- 4 Membership/fundraising

There were no new updates.

- 5 Land stewardship

John and Sabina walked Paul Mazza's farmland at Kikas Valley Farm with Danny Peet of the Natural Resources Conservation Services. Paul came over and John said he seemed to be willing to cooperate in slowing the topsoil run off. John took photos which he will key to a map of the property so Danny can have beginning data for the CREP program, and we can pursue possible funding for riparian buffer improvement. We need to widen some of the buffer strips. There is a program which would reimburse us for the lost agricultural land, and we would pass that money on to Paul. Sabina and John also ran into neighbor who is worried because the agricultural workers wear masks while spraying the fields.

John said the beavers are damning the culvert at Wolfrun so we will need a more permanent solution for the problem such as trapping or excluding and clearing debris. Exclusion would entail heavy fencing. First, we need to clean out the culvert and then find someone who can build the exclusion. Sabina recommended that we contact Tyler Brown at Fish & Wildlife, but he covers the entire state and may be too busy. John will call Tyler and Sabina will reach out to Kim Royer and we'll hold off on cleaning the culvert until then.

## 6 Land projects

Mobbs has been permanently conserved.

Livy was able to get the taxes on Riverside Meadow reduced by 90% to \$1,100. We could get the land included in Mills Riverside Park but at this point there is no need to do that, and Livy thinks the JUPD may not be interested in doing so. At some point, if it makes sense, we'll merge the two properties.

## 7. Events

The spring wildflower walk was well attended. Livy couldn't take part, but she met the group and gave a talk about conservation. Evergreen Erb presented at the library and did her annual bird walk with Sabina. There were roughly 20 people. Sabina took part in the MMU Earth Day celebration. There were a number of speakers and Sabina talked about the land trust and all the conserved properties in each of the towns that send students to the high school.

Sabina also led a bird walk for kids in conjunction with the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library with the children's librarian, Abbey Pasquene. There were five families with kids from 3 to 9 who were very enthusiastic. Abbey would be interested in having further events with us.

We are co-sponsoring a virtual Sue Morse event which will be on June 21.

Livy has talked to the Mobbs Committee about having a town-wide celebration which might be this summer.

On July 9 we will have a fern walk led by Cathy Parris and Dave Barrington at 10 am.

Our annual meeting will be on August 1<sup>st</sup> at the Mills Riverside Park pavilion from 6 to 8 pm. The business meeting will be at 6:30. In the event of rain, we'll move to the community center. Craig Newman of Outreach for Earth Stewardship (OFES) will be our guest speaker.

Our JULT barbecue will be on Monday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.

## 8. Publicity

We need to update the website. Our newsletter is almost ready to go. We just need some verbiage to go with the pie charts that Diana created. We will be publicizing our events on Facebook, our website, and Mailchimp.

Phyl noted that Jericho is considering putting together a monthly town newsletter like Bolton and Westford.

9. Community news

The Conservation Commission is happy that the conservation fund has been used.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary