

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – December 5, 2022

Board members present: John Koier, Phyl Newbeck, Michael Lazorchak, Lisa Paone, and Livy Strong

Guest: John Connell, Heather Meisterling

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:00

1. Review of minutes

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

2. Financial report

Lisa provided the financial report which indicated that our total assets are \$1,400,919 consisting of \$1,185,502 in fixed assets, \$92,611 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,201 in our money market account, \$61,476 in our checking account, \$28,579 in Schwab investments, \$11,357 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$10,191 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In November we took in \$13,429 consisting of roughly \$13,000 in memberships and \$360 in Kikas Valley Farm income. Stripe accounted for \$1,244 of the membership money. We spent \$3,392 which included \$225 in Kikas Valley Farm expenses, \$120 for postage, \$615 for printing, \$33 for subscriptions (Quickbooks, Microsoft, and Clouduance), and \$2,400 to Ecopixel for our website. Livy is looking into eliminating the Clouduance subscription which is \$7 each month and seems unnecessary.

3. Membership/fundraising

Last year we were fundraising for three different projects, so we didn't send out our traditional fundraising letter but we are doing so this year.

4. Land stewardship

John Koier reported that an unusually large number of deer hunters have been parking their vehicles in the Wingate cul-de-sac this hunting season. After much discussion and Livy putting notes on the windshields of the errant vehicles, it was discovered that one of the residents of the development had been giving permission to the hunters to park in there rather than the designated parking lot. This makes it an HOA problem and they are hoping to resolve it at their annual meeting in January so that people do not park there in the future.

The Ten Acre Pasture was brush hogged at the request of Cubby Blades whose beef cows normally graze this land but did not this past year. This was a surprise to JULT as we had not requested this. We shared the cost of the mowing with the Cubby and this wife. John also heard from the wonderful and overworked Eileen Powers of the USDA Farm Service Program that our

request for a waiver of land eligibility for enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement has been approved.

The jury is still out as to whether we will plow the Kikas Valley Farm parking lot this winter as we have heard nothing yet from the Mansfield Nordic Club. We only plowed it once last winter and we don't know if they used it.

Bernie Paquette of Jericho would like the state to declare a Vermont Invasive (Management) Day which would be part of a package of statewide recognition and education about invasive terrestrial plants, aquatics, and forest pests and to promote additional invasive management volunteer activities. An additional goal would be to call for asset contributions including financing and research. He would like JULT to write a letter of support. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the board authorized John Koier to collaborate with Bernie on this.

5. Events

Before the meeting, Lisa forwarded an email from Sophie Mazowita, a wildlife tracker with Cold Hollow to Canada who would charge \$250 for three hours of tracking. We would ask for donations but not charge people who want to attend. Mills Riverside Park might be a good location because there is wildlife, relatively easy walking, and plenty of parking. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the board authorized Lisa and Heather to follow up so we can come up with a day and time for the event with Saturday the preferred date and 10:00 am the preferred time.

6. Publicity

Phyl noted that the banner photo for Barber Farm is actually Tomasi Meadow. Livy will ask the Siegchrists if they have a photo we can use. Phyl showed the board photos she has taken of Old Mill Park and the Gateway property and asked for permission to send those to Ecopixel for the website which was given. She asked board members to recommend a photo to replace the one on our home page and Lisa provided an option. Phyl also showed board members a logo redesign that Ecopixel came up with, but the board decided not to use it. Instead, we will ask them to simply put our name across the top with the tabs above the banner photos and include the logo later on the pages.

Livy is putting information out on Facebook and Instagram. She is looking for articles for the winter newsletter.

John Connell suggested putting up signs like the ones in Charlotte which show that land is conserved. He offered to check with the Charlotte Land Trust to see how they do it.

7. Community news

The Jericho Town Administrator and Selectboard have asked permission to review the language on the historical marker which has been suggested for the site of the original Brown family residence in Riverside Meadow.

John and John are building a new lending library which will go outside Underhill town hall. They are also working on a community orchard which will start at Moore Park. They may also start a potato planting project.

8. Any other news

Heather inquired about having an owl walk. Livy said there are two owls in the early morning hours on South Hill at Mills Riverside Park so we will look into this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 with members fortified by cookies brought by Livy and with party favors in the form of handmade miniature canoe paddles provided by John.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary