

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – January 2, 2023

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

Guest: John Connell

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:00

1. Review of minutes

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

2. Financial report

Lisa provided the financial report which indicated that our total assets are \$1,403,891 consisting of \$1,185,502 in fixed assets, \$92,611 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,201 in our money market account, \$64,447.89 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 December we took in \$3,210 in donations. Lisa said that Stripe is really working well. The majority of the money comes through checks but there are more and more through Stripe. Our only expenses were \$80 for plowing and \$45 for computer services. We have eliminated our monthly \$7 payments to Cludiance.

3. A motion to approve John Connell to our land trust board

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, John Connell was elected to a three-year term on the board which will end in August of 2025.

4. Land Stewardship update

John Koier said we got word from a former member of the Wingate Housing Association that a campsite had been built on our property. John and Barbie took it apart and got rid of it. He said that this spring we will finalize the paperwork for the ten-acre meadow planting and fencing.

Phyl inquired whether there is still access to the Barber Farm from Kikas Valley Farm via the snowmobile trail. She found two posted signs along the way and the trail did not look well maintained. John said that some of the downed trees have been left intentionally to deter mountain bikers, but Phyl said the trail wasn't very good for walking either, because of the blowdown. Livy said the snowmobile trails are no longer being used because the local group disbanded. She said the Kikas Valley Farm and Barber Farm trails are no longer connected because the two landowners in between do not allow access.

Phyl also noted that Paul Mazza's farm trails are badly eroded, and he has abandoned a lot of crops. John Connell wondered if we could put something in our contract with him asking him not to waste food, but Livy said Paul likes to plow the leftovers back into the ground.

Sabina talked to Adam Terko of the Mount Mansfield Nordic Club which is still interested in grooming the Kikas Valley Farm trails. If they do that, the question is whether we should plow the parking area and entrance to the trails. Last year there was a lot of use and people were parking on the road. She wondered if we should enlarge the parking area during the winter.

5. Events

Heather Meisterling and Lisa have invited Sophie Mazowita, a wildlife tracker with Cold Hollow to Canada to do a tracking event for our membership at 10 am on March 4th leaving from the larger parking area of Mobbs Farm.

6. Publicity

John Connell talked to Frances Foster of Charlotte to learn about their process for their conserved land signs. At this point, he doesn't know the price. Livy suggested that we could have the signs made at Sign-O-Rama. John will do some research to learn what materials would be best for the signs with the understanding that they are not going to up that long.

Phyl asked for permission to give Ecopixel the okay for our new website set-up. Lisa said we just received a bill dated January 1st. We still need a photo for the Barber Farm page so Livy will talk to Charlie Siegchrist.

Phyl asked whether folks thought it would be a good idea to interview our newest board members for the spring newsletter. John Connell submitted a short piece about himself for the winter newsletter but perhaps that can be expanded in the spring,

Livy said we need to add photos to our social media pages.

Diana Dunn has been doing our Mailchimp mailings. Livy asked her to send a reminder for membership out, but she said people didn't want to be reminded via Mailchimp and might unsubscribe as a result. Livy said that it would be nice if another board member took over those mailings.

John Connell wanted to know the process for setting up events. Livy said we need at least two months from the birth of the idea to getting things fully formed and publicized.

7. Community news

Jericho has a new Town Planner.

John Koier said the Underhill Center Soup Bowl suppers are starting up again. There will be suppers in January, February, and March.

8. Any other business

Hilaire is leaving the hospital tomorrow afternoon. She no longer wants to serve as membership database coordinator. It's important to send out thank you notes to people who contribute money in a timely manner. Short-term, Livy and Lisa will divvy up the list and write out the cards by hand. Lisa said she has all the membership information and thinks that if we simplify the database, it might be easier to do. We need to retrieve the membership information from Hilaire's computer. She uses Access but none of the rest of us use it. Lisa wondered if Diana could export the information into Excel.

John Connell said some non-profits have all board members involved in sending out personal thank you notes. John Koier, John Connell and Phyl said that in the short term, he would be willing to write some cards. Livy said there are roughly 30 people on the current list of donors. Lisa said that perhaps the Microsoft Suite might allow for mail merge functions. Livy and Lisa will sit down and try to figure out the best way to proceed.

Respectfully submitted, 7:57
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary