

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – February 6, 2023

Board members present: John Connell, Sabina Ernst, Michael Lazorchak (via Zoom), Phyl Newbeck, Lisa Paone, and Livy Strong

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:00

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of January 2023 were approved.

2. Financial report

Lisa provided the financial report which indicated that our total assets are \$1,408,624 consisting of \$1,185,502 in fixed assets, \$4,932 (one-year term) and \$28,579 (two-year term) at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,202 in our money market account, \$68,799 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 January we took in \$4,304 in membership donations. Our expenses totaled \$46 consisting of \$15 in Microsoft fees that will be cancelled and \$30 for Quickbooks.

3. Membership and fundraising

We are still trying to increase membership. John Connell noted that the pool of potential members is small, and lots of local groups are all trying to reach the same people. Lisa suggested approaching businesses for memberships. In the past, businesses have contributed when we held silent auctions but those are a lot of work. Lisa recommended proposing a news story to one of the local television stations. Phyl noted that we need a hook to do that, and Lisa suggested that the installation of the plaque at Mills Riverside Park might be a good occasion.

4. Land Stewardship update

Prior to the meeting, John Koier provided the Land Stewardship report.

JULT was approached by Adam Popkin of the Jericho Trails Committee who offered to gather volunteers in the Spring to renovate the Kikas Valley Farm trails, particularly the trail that connects to Barber Farm. We welcome the help. Sabina noted that trail improvements will mean more use and it will probably be mountain bikes.

It's time to update the management plan for Wolfrun. Our forester for this property, Allan Thomson, will be completing the field work required for the update in the next month. John Koier signed the contract and we can expect to receive an invoice for his work sometime before April 1. John will send along the contract as a PDF to Lisa.

Lisa noted that there are a lot of downed trees at Mobbs. John Connell believes human activity has resulted in stressed forests.

#### 5. Publicity

Phyl will advertise the new website on Front Porch Forum.

John Connell learned that it would be a minimum of \$70 for Sign-a-Rama to make signs for us to put up showing the land is conserved. Livi checked with her source, and it was equally expensive. Lisa and Sabina will both check to see if they can find a cheaper source. Ten signs would probably be sufficient. They would say “this land is conserved forever” and would have our website on it. Livi would like to see them in forest green.

#### 6. Events

The tracking workshop on March 4<sup>th</sup> is already full. Livi wants to restrict it to ten people but Sabina and Phyl thought it could be open to 15. This is the only event we’ve done that is only open to members.

#### 7. Community news

Sabina said that on February 7, the Planning Commission will be discussing land use.

The meeting concluded at 8:13

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary