

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – April 3, 2023

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

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:03

1. Review of minutes

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

2. Financial report

Lisa provided the financial report which indicated that our total assets are \$1,406,551 consisting of \$1,185,502 in fixed assets, \$4,932 (one-year term) and \$88,060 (two-year term) at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,202 in our money market account, \$66,660 in our checking account, \$28,644 in Schwab investments, \$11,357 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$10,191 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In March we took in \$1,079 in membership donations which is about average for this time of year. Our expenses included \$285 in Jericho taxes for Wolfrun Natural Area, \$805 for Kikas Valley Farm, and \$537 for Riverside Meadow. We also paid \$725 to the Land Trust Alliance for our annual membership, \$1,890 to our consulting forester Allan Thompson, and \$37 in computer expenses. Lisa said that Stripe is working really well.

Lisa has been having discussions with our accountant about our taxes. There was a transaction in March which remains unexplained but our taxes, as a non-profit, aren't due until May 15 so there is time to figure it out. Lisa also met with the JUPD Treasurer who is an expert at QuickBooks to try to get a tutorial.

There was a discussion about membership payment levels which haven't changed in years. Some land trusts separate their members based on giving levels but we've never done that. There are very few people who take advantage of the \$10 senior/student rate.

Livy asked whether the Board was willing to try to hire someone to help Lisa with the accounting. Lisa is willing to wait until she talks to our accountant before making a decision. If the work can be simplified, she is willing to do it herself but if not, we may look into hiring someone.

3. Land Stewardship

Livy called Paul Mazza on March 28 to tell him he needs to make sure that the perennial buffers are in place - 25 feet for the wetland area and 10 feet for ditches. He said the first order of business is to hire someone with an excavator to dig the ditches. After that, he will put down conservation grass seed for the buffers. He mentioned the HOA concern regarding drainage from last fall and said he'd take care of that. Livy and John Koier believe he understands the need to abide by state requirements, but we will watch as the season progresses.

John Koier signed off on the 10-year renewal of our Conservation Management Plan for Wolfrun and it has been submitted to Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper for his approval. There are no changes to the original plan and this will keep us in the Vermont Land Use tax program so our property taxes remain low.

#### 4. Events

We will be holding our rescheduled tracking event on April 15. The spring wildflower walk with Michele Tulis will be held on April 29. On May 13, Evergreen Erb and Sabina Ernst will lead a birding event at Mills Riverside Park. Livy attends these events and hands out newsletters but we don't restrict events to members with the exception of the tracking walk. Two or three people became members so they could go to the tracking event.

#### 5. Publicity

Livy found a business on Shelburne Road called Fast Signs which can make our signs regarding conserved land for \$25 each. The signs will say "this land is conserved forever" and will be forest green with a white font. We will buy 14 signs and will be posted on conserved land during the warmer months.

#### 6. Community News

Livy and two people from the affordable housing committee went to talk about affordable housing with Chuck Lacy.

John Koier was contacted by someone from the Bolton Conservation Commission because they want to have a walk at Wolfrun Natural Area on April 30.

#### 7. Conflict of Interest Agreement

Our 990 form asked if we had a conflict of interest agreement. Livy will take a stab at it and send it to the rest of the board.

The meeting concluded at 8:00

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary