

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – May 1, 2023

Board members present: John Connell, Sabina Ernst (via Zoom) John Koier, Phyl Newbeck, and Livy Strong

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:01

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of April 2023 were approved with one change. The amount of money approved for the Hunt Farm was \$550,000 not \$5,500.

2. Financial report

Lisa provided the financial report prior to the meeting. Our total assets are \$1,405,652 consisting of \$1,185,502 in fixed assets, \$4,956 (one-year term) and \$88,223 (two-year term) at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,202 in our money market account, \$65,488 in our checking account, \$28,644 in Schwab investments, \$11,442 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$10,191 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In April we took in \$2,284 in membership donations. Our expenses included \$78 for postage, \$655 for printing, \$378 for publicity, \$340 for special events, and \$30 for subscriptions.

Lisa will talk to our accountant next week and determine whether we need to hire a bookkeeper. The Treasurer from the Jericho Underhill Park District has been helping Lisa learn the system. Livy saw a Front Porch Forum post with someone offering part-time bookkeeping services and urged others to keep their eyes and ears open for other options.

3. Membership

Lisa printed JULT's thank you letters with names, dates, and amounts. We used our last stamps for this and since stamp prices are going up, we will buy some in advance. We gained four or five members thanks to the tracking walk.

4. Land stewardship

John Koier attended a coffee and discussion for Chittenden County members of Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife, Inc. which was hosted by Lisa Sausville, the executive director of the organization. Chittenden County Forester, Ethan Tapper was the guest speaker. John said it was great to connect with other woodland managers in our area, including the founding couple of Catamount Family Outdoor Center. John learned that we are high on Ethan's list of effective land trusts, in part because of our work fighting invasive species.

John also spoke with Will Dunkley of Trout Lilly Forestry about more barberry, buckthorn multi-flora rose eradication for the 2023 season. He would like to hire him again for 40 hours of work because he believes we have made significant progress on the Kikas Valley Farm

woodlands.

John said he had a nice conversation with a father and two sons who wanted permission to hunt turkey on our land and is happy that we can accommodate respectful hunters.

Livy met with Chris Boget of Lake Champlain Land Trust at Mills Riverside Park which has Japanese honeysuckle and Japanese knotweed. He said the best way to handle Japanese honeysuckle is to trim it back and then cut through the main branch with a chainsaw and then pull the roots out with a pickaxe. They have stopped relying on community volunteers in favor of corporate workdays. He suggested that if we have volunteers, we should assign them a small piece of land so they can see the results of their work.

John and Livy both think that Paul Mazza is complying with best management practices, but we'll need to see how things are after the growing season starts.

5. Land project updates

The couples from the Farm Upstream would like to get started on the land that will be purchased from the Hunt family on Lee River Road even though the purchase won't be finished until fall. The Farm Upstream is made up of Corinne Froning, Jacob Kornfeld, Jacqueline Huettenmoser, Spencer Hardy, and Tucker Andrews who is local. Corinne is currently working at Bread and Butter Farm. They may lease part of the house and land before their move-in date. They are considering putting a farmstand by the side of the road. They will have strawberries, eggs, and produce and perhaps start a native tree nursery in later years. There was talk about having them provide a coupon for a box of assorted produce in return for large donations.

Livy met with three of the farmers in April at Mills Riverside Park and said they were full of enthusiasm and fun to be around. The farmers took part in a zoom meeting with the Jericho Conservation Commission. We're asking for \$65,000 from the Conservation Easement Fund. The Jericho Conservation Commission will review the request on May 17 and Al Karnatz of VLT will attend that meeting.

6. Events

The wildlife tracking walk with Sophie Mazowita was three and a half hours long and attended by approximately a dozen people. They saw where polyester bees and beetles burrowed to leave eggs and a lot of red squirrel activity including caches and snipped branches. There were deer and raccoon tracks and a deer skeleton. Livy would like to have another walk with her.

Last Saturday Michele Tulis led our spring wildflower walk which had almost too many people attending. They started with 31 people, but others joined along the way. We will be having a fern walk and also a fall wildflower walk.

We have the option of being part of a community table at the Jericho Farmers Market on May 25 with the Trails Committee, June 8 with the Planning Commission, July 13 with the Jericho Energy Task Force, August 31 with the Planning Commission, September 14 without a partner

and October 5 with the Trails Committee. Livy can do almost any of those dates, as could John Connell. John Koier is already there but could also help out.

7. Publicity

The 14 signs saying This Land is Conserved Forever have arrived. John and John need to contact Underhill for the signs for Casey's Hill and Tomasi Meadow. We will have at least one each at the ten-acre pasture, Mills Riverside Park, Riverside Meadow, and Kikas Valley Farm. Livy thinks we can leave the signs up for a month at a time so we will have them up for the months of June and August. We will save one for our booth at the Farmers' Market.

We need to update the finance page of our website and we should probably change some of the photos.

8. Community news

The Jericho Planning Commission is holding a big forum at MMU on May 3. Green Up Breakfast will be May 6 at the Jericho Community Center.

Underhill is starting a community orchard. They will be planting six apple trees, 10 blueberry bushes and 10 raspberry bushes on Saturday behind the town pond for the first installment.

9. Conflict of Interest Agreement

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Conflict of Interest agreement was approved.

The meeting concluded at 7:55

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary