

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – June 5, 2023

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

Guest: Dan Martin of the Richmond Land Trust

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:03

1. Review of minutes

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

2. Financial report and 990

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, \$11,203 in our money market account, \$66,832 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 May we took in \$1,810 in membership donations. Our expenses included \$63 for postage, \$944 for web hosting, and \$30 for subscriptions.

Lisa said that the Quickbook reports don't agree with one another so she would like to have a bookkeeper to assist her. She has spoken to an Essex bookkeeper named Sheryl Leslie who has been an accountant since 2006 and works with non-profits. She charges \$125 an hour and believes it would only take an hour a month to help us out. Lisa will get two references from Sheryl and at the next board meeting we will vote on whether to hire her.

Lisa presented the board with our 990. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the board agreed to file the form.

3. Land projects

On May 17, the Jericho Conservation Commission approved \$65,000 for the purchase of the conservation easement for the Farm Upstream. The decision now goes to the Select Board and will hopefully be on the June 15<sup>th</sup> agenda.

4. Land stewardship

This is the third year the state will be trapping mosquitoes at Wolfrun Natural Area to test for diseases. Will Dunkley will do 40 hours of barberry control at Kikas Valley Farm in September. John Koier said some of Paul Mazza's erosion strips are doing well but others have not yet come in well. Paul finished doing the ditching and moved the road away from the ditch.

Norma Blades will not be moving her cows to the Skunk Hollow Meadow, in part because of the proposed paving on Skunk Hollow Road this summer. They hope to put in a better fence before they can bring the cows back.

#### 5. Publicity

We have 14 “this land is permanently conserved” lawn signs and Livy and John Connell will put them up this week. We have two days at the Jericho Farmer’s Market – July 27 and October 5. The town of Jericho will set up the booth. All we have to do is show up with our display board and material.

Livy has almost finished the summer newsletter but is still waiting to finalize our guest speaker for our annual meeting. The board decided to move the annual meeting to October, so we have more time to find a speaker.

#### 6. Events

We have a pop-up dinner of Ethiopian and Eritrean food in Underhill scheduled for June 22 which will be a benefit for us. There will be two sittings for 32 people.

There will be a fern walk with Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington on August 5, and a wildflower walk with Liz Thompson on September 2.

#### 7. Community news

The Underhill Community Orchard has launched with six apple trees, ten blueberry bushes and nine raspberries. Someone waters the trees every day and it has generated a good deal of community buzz. It’s about the philosophy of a community feeding itself. They are also looking at the idea of a community potato patch. Mobbs Farm also has a small community orchard.

#### 8. Any other business

Livy talked about a possible technical grant help for capacity building and writing a strategic plan. Vermont Healthy Communities administers a grant so we’re applying for it.

The meeting concluded at 8:08

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary