

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – September 4, 2023

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

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:01 via Zoom.

1. Review of minutes

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

2. Financial report

Lisa provided the financial report prior to the meeting. Our total assets are \$1,427,349 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$4,956 (one-year term) and \$88,223 (two-year term) at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,204 in our money market account, \$69,859 in our checking account, \$28,932 in Schwab investments, \$11,442 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$10,191 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In July we took in \$12,880 in membership and \$406 for the Hunt property for a total of \$15,154. We spent \$1,811 for accounting, \$372 for computer expenses, \$50 for education, \$3,854 for removal of invasives, \$681 for printing, \$30 for subscriptions and \$37 for supplies for a total of \$88,223. In August we took in \$4,154 consisting of \$3,535 in memberships and \$617 for the Hunt property. We spent \$486 consisting of \$62 for accounting assistance, \$250 for membership dues in the Vermont Housing Coalition, \$73 for postage, \$30 for subscriptions, and \$69 for Wolfrun Natural Area property taxes.

3. Land projects

The Farm Upstream will purchase and conserve the Hunt Farm on September 7. Livy would like to take the farmers and Martha Prince to lunch and those who want to join can do so. She'll let the Board know when that takes place. They will need to make the farmhouse habitable for two couples.

4. Land stewardship

Livy is trying to find out whether the Blades will bring their cows to the pasture next year. Norma is uncertain. Her husband is physically challenged and doesn't want to deal with cows anymore, but they have been using the pasture for 30 years and don't want to give it up. They need to fortify the fence with four or five strands instead of one strand and she would like to see the fence moved back from Skunk Hollow Road and have the land brush hogged. We can decide to make improvements in the hope that we will have another tenant, either cows, sheep, or goats. Norma is only talking about three cows and some calves which would arrive in mid-June. She will look up the prices of new posts and a charger for the fence. Even if we pay for the fencing and electrification, we only own ten of the twenty acres on which they graze. Sabina will talk to NOFA to see if they know any farmers who might be interested in the land. We will still pursue a

grant to improve the property including the use of herbicides for riparian planting. The grant work will start tomorrow.

John Koier said the beaver exclusion fence at Gateway is still working but needs some further attention from someone who doesn't use heavy machinery. Livy said there are a number of branches around the exclusion fence which need to be hauled out. The water has been high so we may need to wait. John will talk to Neil Villeneuve about it.

We will put up our conservation signs in the fall. Lisa volunteered to help Livy put them back up.

## 5. Publicity

The Jericho DEI committee sent us some information about the state marker commemorating the Brown family. Phyl will be the point person on this project.

The newsletter is at the printer and Livy is hoping that it will be arriving in mailboxes soon because it has the information for our annual meeting which is October 2.

Livy will be working on a membership renewal letter for the fall.

## 6. Events

Our fall wildflower walk was last Saturday. We had 22 people at Mills Riverside Park. The walk went for longer than two hours, but nobody left at the end of that time slot.

Livy and Sabina went to the Vermont Leadership Conference in Randolph and took different workshops.

Our annual meeting will be on October 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 at Underhill Town Hall. Refreshments start at 6:30 p.m. with a short business meeting at 7 p.m. Jaclyn Comeau, a wildlife biologist and the Black Bear Project Leader for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will be our guest speaker. Her topic will be about living with black bears.

## 7. Community news

The Jericho Town Plan draft is available for review and comments. The third draft is intended to be the final version.

Underhill has a new road foreman and Jericho lost its road foreman.

## 8. Draft strategic plan

Livy asked board members to comment on our draft strategic plan. We don't have a hard deadline, but it would be nice to get it done sooner rather than later.

The meeting concluded at 7:35.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary