

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – December 4, 2023

Board members present: John Connell, Sabina Ernst, John Koier, Michael Lazorchak, Phyl Newbeck, 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 November 2023 were approved.

2. Financial report

Lisa provided the financial report prior to the meeting. Our total assets are \$1,413,992 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, \$88,223 in our checking account, \$28,932 in Schwab investments, \$11,528 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$11,528 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In October we took in \$4,870 in memberships, followed by \$1,130 in November. Other income included \$360 from Paul Mazza for rent for Kikas Valley Farm and \$175 from the Farm Service Agency for Kikas Valley Farm pasture stream remediation. Expenses included \$1,625 for the Larson appraisal, \$432.50 for assistance with Quickbooks, \$69.63 to Richmond for Wolfrun Natural Area property taxes, \$99.82 to Bolton for the same, \$63 for postage, \$304 for our website, \$30 for Quickbooks, and a returned check fee.

3. Membership and year-end giving

This is the time of year when we send out renewal letters to our membership. Renewals have been coming in. Michael suggested working with a local brewery on a promotion where over a short period of time, one dollar from each purchase could be donated to JULT. The money involved probably wouldn't be significant, but it would get our name out.

Livy explained that a new person donating to a project automatically becomes a member for a year. All the money goes to the project, rather than operating funds. It was suggested that that language should be in the thank you letter. It may already be there, but Livy will.

4. Land projects

We are nearing the finish line on the Davis Farm. The Jericho Conservation Commission, and the Vermont Land Trust will meet with the Jericho Select Board and the Davis family this week. The Conservation Commission supports our request for \$35,000 from the Conservation Fund. We will add an extra \$5,000 to add to the previous \$50,000 we donated to the project.

5. Land stewardship

Dickie Streeter cleared the beaver exclusion fence. John Koier contacted Neil Villeneuve, but he wasn't interested in helping. Streeter didn't charge even though it was a very difficult job, so Livy and John want to buy some Snowflake Chocolate for him. The lock on the fence has been cut.

## 6. Publicity

Livy is working on the winter newsletter. Sabina will submit an article which includes some photos of bear prints in the mud which she took at Kikas Valley Farm. Livy is trying to keep us current on Facebook and Instagram. She has been pushing membership and has created some reels. She will also post something on Front Porch Forum.

## 7. Community news

Sabina and Livy attended a Transition Jericho meeting that featured Bill McKibben. Phyl and John Koier attended via Zoon. One of the farmers from The Farm Upstream attended the meeting and wanted to know how many people would be interested in using his farm as a compost drop-off and whether folks would be interested in a you-pick option at the farm.

The Jericho Energy Task Force and Jericho Conservation Commission have formed a book club to read a book called *Crossings* by Ben Goldfarb that Phyl recommended about road ecology. Catherine Bass at the Jericho Town Library will help. The next book will probably be about electrifying.

The Deborah Rawson Memorial Library just featured a presentation from the Underhill Historical Society about Vermont hillside farms which made Livy think about collaborating with another group for a presentation. Sabina said the Conservation Commission has been focusing on land transitioning. She would love to get a coalition of towns and the land trust for a round-robin discussion where landowners could talk to various professionals about things they can do with their land. It would include lawyers and estate planners. She went to a similar presentation with Vermont Coverts.

Sabina just finished a six-month training called the Walking College with AARP to learn how to be an ambassador for walking in the community. She has to do a project and she proposed a community walk from farm to farm in Jericho. If it comes to fruition, she would love to have the land trust be a sponsor.

This Friday the land trust board will meet the farmers from The Farm Upstream and the landowner, Martha Prince, for lunch. The farmers say they want to be a big part of the community.

The two Johns reported that they have a librarian for their Little Free Libraries. She checks on the libraries and puts kids' books on one shelf and adult ones on the higher one. They are planning to build another little library just for kids.

John Connell tried to get high school students for the board but thinks it was the wrong time of year. He hasn't given up on the idea.

Our next meeting will be January 8. During the winter we will meet via Zoom.

The meeting concluded at 7:40

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary