

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – February 5, 2024

Board members present: John Connell, John Koier, Michael Lazorchak, 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 January 2024 were approved.

2. Financial report

Lisa provided the financial report prior to the meeting. Our total assets are \$1,371,187 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$5,036 (one-year term) and \$88,619 (two-year term) at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,205 in our money market account, \$88,619 in our checking account, \$28,932 in Schwab investments, \$11,528 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$8,896 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In January we took in \$7,689 in memberships and spent \$1,126 consisting of \$45 for office expenses, \$132 for postage, \$597 for printing, \$30 for subscriptions, \$106 for the Farm Upstream, and \$216 for web hosting.

3. Land stewardship

We have already received our first “rental” check from the Ten Acre Pasture CREP stream improvement job. The first payment was \$551.25 for the planting/fencing that will be completed this spring.

We are continuing our efforts to receive a federal grant for invasives work, timber stand improvement, and woodland bird habitat improvement at Kikas Valley Farm. John Koier had a good conversation with Michael Brown, our forester and linked him up with Dave Adams of Vermont Fish and Wildlife and Danny Peet of USDA/NRCS. Michael is going to finesse our Forest Management Plan, and this will make us more favorably positioned to be awarded a grant when it comes before the USDA Grant Funding Committee.

John spoke with Will Dunkling of Trout Lilly Forestry. He is no longer doing invasives work, but he recommended a former employee, Dennis, who would be glad to do the work for us.

Sabina Ernst visited Paul Mazza’s farm fields and reported (with photographic documentation) that the erosion is pretty bad and ditch buffer plantings are close to nonexistent. The July flooding hit Paul and is operation pretty hard. Michael will try and see if we can find alternative funding.

The split rail fence at the Kikas Valley Farm parking lot is in need of repair this spring. The donated kiosk will need to be filled with maps and information.

Livy said that Sabina would like to see signs asking people to clean up after their dogs at Kikas Valley Farm. We have one sign, but she would like to see others. She was upset because a Nordic skier with a dog crossed her land and left deposits. Livy thinks Sabina could put an additional sign at the entrance to her property. She doesn't believe that multiple signs work that well and might get in the way of agricultural use at Kikas Valley Farm. We can add some additional language for dog owners to the new kiosk. Current language only tells people to stay away from farm vehicles.

4. Land projects

The Davis Farm has been conserved.

5. Publicity

The newsletter has just gone out and includes an article on black bears by Sabina and a very sweet letter from a former Underhill resident. Kyle Seymour donated a photo for us to use.

6. Events

We currently have no events planned.

7. Community news

There are big items on the warnings of both Jericho and Underhill. Last year we had a booth at the Jericho Town Meeting which wasn't terribly productive.

Underhill will have an event to celebrate their new orchard.

There will be a discussion of the book *Crossings* at the Jericho Town Library which will include a Zoom talk with the book's author.

8. Any other business

Our next meeting will be March 4 via Zoom.

The meeting concluded at 7:22

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary