

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – December 2, 2024

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

Guest: Sheryl Leslie

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:01

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of October and November 2024 were approved.

2. Financial report

Sheryl provided the financial report prior to the meeting. Our total assets are \$1,369,867 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$93,996 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,208 in our money market account, \$25,541 in our checking account, \$29,720 in Schwab investments, \$11,702 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$10,179 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In November we took in \$2,337 in memberships and \$360 in rental income from Kikas Valley Farm. We spent \$200 for postage, \$62 for accounting, \$600 in Kikas Valley Farm expenses, and \$204 in Wolfrun Natural Area property taxes.

Lisa is going to continue to check the mail for donations but not for bills and Treasurer-related things. Sheryl requested access to the main JULT email address so she can review bills. She will coordinate with Livy regarding who takes care of what. Sheryl suggested having more of our money in one place rather than so many different accounts. She thinks we can get our money out of the Vermont Community Foundation on a vote by the Board.

3. Membership/fundraising

We received 33 donations totaling \$2,000 for the month of November. Some of those are new members, including people who came to our booth at the farmers' market.

4. Land stewardship

Jon Koier submitted the stewardship report prior to the meeting. In early November Pau Mazza notified Livy that beavers had plugged the access road culvert at Kikas Valley Farm. Chris Wells brought his backhoe and shoveled it out. Our Kikas Valley Farm forester marked a section of the timber stand and habitat improvement work on the uplands so Bill Anderson the VYCC Forest Project Manager could get a feel for the work which will start this winter.

John said he is happy to see that Paul Mazza planted a winter rye cover crop on his corn fields. Work and planning are ongoing for the CREP-funded work on ditch and stream buffers on Paul's

farmland.

Sabina said Katie Spring from USDA put a sign on the former cattle area which says that it is a CREP project and explains what has been done.

Sabina had a follow-up conversation with Sam Puddicombe from Friends of the Winooski. They reached out to us last year about projects and we proposed additional planting along the stream. Sabina connected him with Ben Gabos and Phil Wilson so they can talk to one another and work together. They are all on the same page. Sabina would like to see a culvert similar to the one at Wolfun installed at Kikas Valley Farm.

Sabina met Dave Airoidi at Tyler Place. He wants to remove a beaver that has taken up residence on Bob Naylor's property. She will connect Dave with people who can answer his questions about beavers. Bob does not want anyone to remove the dam or the beavers.

#### 5. Publicity

Livy presented to 30 people at the Fletcher Free Library. Penny Miller helped her put a Power Point together and retired VLT president Darby Bradley and Kate Lampton from the Charlotte Land Trust were there. Livy showed some photos and took part in a question-and-answer session after the presentation.

Livy asked The Farm Upstream to write an article for the next newsletter.

#### 6. Events

We're hoping to add some winter events

#### 7. Any other business

Michael provided information on a potential internship for high school students. He has worked with students in Stowe. It would be a way to get our name out there and get some kids involved. They would want us to come up with ideas before Christmas. Sometimes Michael gives them broad strokes but other times he gives them several options. He thinks we should come up with two ideas and in the spring the students will select which topic interests them. Another option is an independent study route with a single student. Sabina suggested having an independent study on how to reach more young people. Michael will contact the professor with any ideas we come up with.

#### 8. Plan on reviewing our by-laws

Phyl offered to review the JULT by-laws.

#### 9. Start strategic plan

Livy volunteered to start working on a new strategic plan.

10. Other business

Sabina would like to meet with Livy to make some changes to the website.

11. Community News

Sabina said that there is a petition to move to a five-person Selectboard in Jericho. The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission is redesigning their land use map which indicates potential growth area. They will come and talk to the Planning Commission in January about their thinking. The Planning Commission and Conservation Commission did a project with Arrowwood to analyze forest blocks in Jericho. The data set is complete, and they hope to use the information to update the natural resource overlay districts.

Livy and Sabina are on the Town Meeting Reimagined Committee and a meeting is coming up. The Selectboard will send out a postcard. Phyl said the Jericho Energy Task Force will show the movie *Common Ground*, a sequel to *Kiss the Ground* on January 7. The movie is about regenerative agriculture, and it will be followed by a community dinner at Browns River Middle School on January 8, sponsored by the Jericho/Underhill Food Hub.

The meeting concluded at 8:08

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary