

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – July 7, 2025

Board members present: John Connell, John Koier, Michael Lazorchak, Phyl Newbeck (via phone), and Livy Strong

Guest: Caroline Klosowski

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:00.

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of May 2025 were approved.

2. Financials

Our total assets are \$1,404,056 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$97,654 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,210 in our money market account, \$55,611 in our checking account, \$30,363 in Schwab investments, \$11,839 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$10,064 the Vermont Community Foundation.

In May we took in \$11,374 consisting of a \$10,538 grant, \$319 in dividends, \$320 in memberships and \$195 in unrealized gains. We spent \$411 consisting of \$125 for accounting, \$82 for subscriptions, and \$204 in Wolfrun property taxes.

In June we took in \$493 consisting of \$371 for dividends, \$111 in unrealized gains, and \$10 in memberships. We spent \$1,413 consisting of \$156 in accounting, \$82 for subscriptions, and \$1,174 for insurance. We are currently in the black for almost \$7,000 for the year.

3. Membership secretary position

Lisa will not be able to continue as membership secretary. Caroline is the Business and Communications Manager for Stowe Electric. She would like to help us with communications and might be willing to take over the position. She said we need to try to figure out where we can improve by walking it backwards. You first identify the goal you are trying to achieve (such as attracting a younger audience) and then build a solution. We could begin a strategic campaign which can include tabling at events.

4. Land stewardship

There was no land stewardship report, but John Koier discussed an email from the Friends of the Winooski regarding Kikas Valley Farm. If we follow up on that, we will need to consult with the landowners.

Sam Puddicombe of Friends of the Winooski reported that the site was looking great. “An Intervale crew was out string trimming around the planted stems. Native grasses and forbs are coming up, and the trees and shrubs we planted have leafed out and are growing well. We’re

committed to the project and excited to watch it evolve into the shrubby wetland habitat it's meant to be." They posted photos on Instagram and tagged JULT.

Sam proposed a 2026 planting project on the southern portion of the small stream near the entrance to the field which he said could support a full 50-foot buffer without impacting neighboring parcels.

He also wanted to know if JULT would consider USFWS's recommendation for herbicide application, if deemed beneficial. This area has fewer invasive species than the spring project site, but they defer to USFWS on best management practices.

Livy tried to get Allaire Diamond to meet with the Mazza family and although Allaire provided a date and time, the Mazza family was unable to meet at that time and suggested the end of August instead. Livy will continue to try to find a date.

Dickie Streeter did a great job with the exclusion fence.

5. Land project

The Jericho portion of the Rawson Farm will receive the promised federal funding. JULT will be responsible for raising \$20,000 and will submit an application to the Town of Jericho for \$10,000. This amount would be possible from the Conservation Reserve Fund. The Rawson Farm is one of the last two remaining dairy farms in Jericho. We helped to conserve the other dairy farm, the Davis Farm, in 2024. A fundraising strategy will be developed with the fall newsletter, introducing this exciting land project.

6. Publicity

The two Johns will put up our Conserved signs on Wednesday. Caroline has formatting experience, and we could avoid the high cost of printing with her help on the fall newsletter. We discussed publicity, and Caroline has many ideas that we have not pursued, and that can hopefully bridge our generation gap.

7. Events

We will host a walk on July 19 at 10 am at Wolfrun Natural Area with Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington to explore the wide variety of plants there. The 25th anniversary of Mills Riverside Park will be held on August 16 from 10 am to 2 pm. Mills was our first project, and we will celebrate with food trucks, live music, family activities, and more. JULT contributed \$2,000 to the Park District to support this event. On August 23, Liz Thompson will continue her long tradition of leading a Fall Wildflower Walk at Mills Riverside Park from 10 am to noon. Additional event ideas are always welcome.

8. Community News

The Jericho Underhill Food Hub is very busy with ways to celebrate local food. A second Food Sharing Shed is now behind the United Church in Underhill Flats. A free community lunch will

be held on August 10 from 11 am to 1 pm at the Chamberlin Farm. Pizza nights are underway at the Jericho Elementary School. Information is available on the Food Hub website or Facebook page. In other news, the Jericho Selectboard has two new members.

9. Strategic Plan

The draft strategic plan was approved with the changes that Michael sent. A date for our Summer Barbecue was set for August 9 at Sabina's. We will get a list of items needed later.

10. Other business

Our conversation with Caroline was exceptional. Livy said her experience and enthusiasm shine brightly and believes our engagement with the community will improve. Caroline's expertise will be a great asset and will complement the strengths of our current board members. The board members present voted to approve Caroline as a new member of our board of trustees. Lisa and Livy will coordinate the transition.

Thanks to Michael for introducing Caroline to us, and to John Connell for hosting the meeting in his historic barn.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00

Respectfully submitted,

Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary with assistance from Livy Strong, JULT Chair