

## Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – September 1, 2025

Board members present: John Connell, Sabina Ernst, John Koier, 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 July 2025 were approved.

### 2. Financial Report

No financial report was submitted.

### 3. Membership/fundraising

We're about ready to launch the Rawson fundraising appeal which will be in our fall newsletter. Livy will ask for \$10,000 from the Jericho Conservation Fund. The price is \$30,000 for the Jericho portion of the farm. Once that is protected, we'll move on to the Underhill portion.

Livy may also send her usual membership renewal appeal but hasn't decided yet. Anyone contributing to the Rawson fund automatically becomes a member.

### 4. Land stewardship

John Connell and John Koier put out the "This Land Is Conserved Forever" signs on our land.

An application for funding to cover the spraying of the remaining barberry and other invasive woody plants on the 70-acre KVF woodland block was submitted this spring. Dave Adams will preview the job on September 22, possibly at 10 am. There is still some federal money available for projects like this. This fall, Dennis Bianco will complete the job he started last year if we get the funding.

0.62 acres of the riparian buffer strip that we planted along the 10-Acre Pasture stream was brush hogged by Bob Naylor's contractor. Bob has agreed to fund the replanting. We can work on a planting plan next year. We have an estimate for how much it will cost – a least \$3,000 - and we will send a letter to Bob. There was discussion about whether to involve a lawyer or not but we decided to do so if Bob doesn't sign the first letter. The plants will not be ready until next spring and will need to be done by professionals.

There was discussion about having a fence between the two properties, but metal fence posts or T-bars would be a better alternative which might stop a tractor but not deter the movement of wildlife. It's possible that it could be done when the planting is done in the spring. Livy said T-bars are only \$2.60 per post.

Sabina said we should assess the multi-flora rose which is in the section that wasn't mowed and should be dealt with. She said it's not as bad as the barberry issue, but it can probably be done in one afternoon.

## 5. Events

We had wildflower and bird walks in the spring and in July Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington took folks up a steep trail at Wolfun to look at wildflowers. Livy thinks it may have been too much of a hike for some people, but it was well attended. Our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary event at Mills Riverside Park was also successful. Livy has a banner with the names of all the original donors. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, Liz Thompson led a fall wildflower walk. There were only seven people but that meant that all their questions could be addressed.

Livy is looking for future events including collaborations with other groups such as the Conservation Commissions, the Jericho Underhill Food Hub or any of the libraries. Sabina said the Jericho Conservation Commission is trying to find a way to get a grass roots level of appreciation for open space. She would like to see JULT co-sponsor some of these talks. She noted that this is an important time to remind people about the types and amount of land that wildlife need. The commission is updating the Natural Resources Overlay and adding a Forest Block layer to it. The Planning Commission will be working on this for the rest of the year with public outreach taking place during the fall and winter.

John Connell would like to see more speakers and Sabina suggested Sue Morse for an event co-sponsored by JULT and both Conservation Commissions.

## 6. Publicity

The fall newsletter is at the printer.

It took a while for Diane Dunn to transfer the mail chimp information to Caroline. Livy said Caroline is going to help us with publicity and has suggested that we become active on LinkedIn.

We need to update our website and will include short biographies of board members.

Livy said fall is a difficult time to get publicity out.

## 7. Community News

The Underhill potato harvest will be on September 20.

## 8. Other business

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary

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