

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – October 6, 2025

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

Guest: Mylinh Delapa

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:00.

1. Review of minutes

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

2. Financial Report

Our total assets are \$1,428,121 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$97,754 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,21 in our money market account, \$79,305 in our checking account, \$30,444 in Schwab investments, \$11,839 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$10,064 the Vermont Community Foundation.

In August we took in \$125 in memberships. We spent \$379 consisting of \$250 in membership dues, \$45 in subscriptions and \$78 on Wolfrun property taxes.

In September we earned exactly 29 cents. We spent \$887 consisting of \$62 on accounting and \$825 on legal fees.

Livy said that our QuickBooks subscription ended without warning, so she and Sheryl had to figure out how to get back in.

Lisa has officially stepped down, and the timing is bad because we are raising money for the Rawson purchase, and we are almost ready for the end of the season membership drive. Livy will go to the post office to pick up our mail but is unable to do the database piece. She hopes Caroline can do it and if that doesn't work, we need to look for a volunteer, an intern, or a paid position. We are currently using a database called Little Green Light which Caroline says she can use. It is designed specifically for non-profit organizations. It can do much more than what we've been doing with it.

Livy has asked Ecopixel to add a donation box for the Rawson purchase with a note that anyone who contributes automatically becomes a member. We've been using Stripe which may not be able to provide all the required information.

Livy believes there is a lot of interest in residents of Jericho, Underhill, and beyond for the Rawson farm and believes we can easily raise \$20,000. She will also ask the town of Jericho to contribute \$20,000 from the Conservation Fund. The cost of the purchase has gone up after a reappraisal. After conserving the Jericho portion, we will move on to the Underhill piece. The

Westford portion is a question mark since Burton Rawson leases it to a sugarmaker and it is rough terrain.

3. Land stewardship

John Koier said that the work on invasive plants won't be done until next year. There is a grant proposal in the works, and it does look as though native plants are coming back.

Rebecca Roman of the Vermont Land Trust wants to walk JULT properties on October 9. She wants to do Mills Riverside Park, Wolfrun, and Kikas Valley Farm.

Livy walked with Bob Naylor and his wife Dorsey on the property which was illegally brushhogged. Bob has specific questions which the state will hopefully answer. Livy believes that he will do the right thing.

Michael said that Caroline was going to submit a grant to the Vermont Community Loan Foundation for funding to delineate the property lines so we can get stakes (probably metal) or other property boundaries separating the Naylor property from Kikas Valley Farm and Kikas Pasture. Caroline wants to get the work done before next spring and will include the cost of the surveyor in the grant.

4. Events

Livy has been thinking about when we should have the annual meeting and who the presenter should be. Sue Morse is always a possibility. Livy is considering February or March for the meeting. She thinks more people will attend if it's during the winter.

Michael introduced Mylinh Delapa who is a UVM senior from Foxboro Massachusetts. She is interested in music, birds, and land conservation. She and Michael have kicked around a few ideas for events with Sabina. Mylinh talked about a bird scavenger hunt or a guided bird walk and the possibility of getting the UVM birding club involved. The scavenger hunt would involve placards (possibly ten) with bird pictures and information and a QR code for even more information and possibly a link to Merlin which would provide the sound of the bird call. Sabina suggested reaching out the middle school and offered to find her a contact there. Mylinh has done birding walks for kids and said she'd be comfortable doing that.

5. Publicity

There were some issues with the newsletter due to turnover at the printer but it has gone out.

Phyl reminded the board that she remains willing to do board bios for the website.

6. Community News

Livy was invited to a South Burlington Land Trust get-together which was a networking event with other land trusts including Middlebury and Charlotte. It was a fun way to meet new people.

7. Other business

Volunteers harvested 600 pounds of potatoes at the Underhill potato patch and donated most to food shelves in the area.

Livy and Sabina went on a walk with Audubon and the Nature Conservancy in the Northeast Kingdom. Sabina said it was a beautiful walk, and an added benefit was talking to Lynn McNamara who is collaborating with VHCB.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary

.