

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – November 3, 2025

Board members present: John Connell, Sabina Ernst, John Koier, Michael Lazorchak, 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 October 2025 were approved.

2. Financial Report

Our total assets are \$1,441,464 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$97,754 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,211 in our money market account, \$93,228 in our checking account, \$28,873 in Schwab investments, \$11,839 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$10,064 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In October we received \$15,7665 in memberships and a \$2,000 donation. We spent \$1,676 consisting of \$125 for accounting, \$804 for advertising, a \$48 account fee at Merchant's Bank, \$85 in subscriptions, \$132 in supplies, and \$480 in Wolfrun property taxes.

3. Membership and Fundraising

We have more than the \$20,000 we wanted to raise for the Rawson property and some of the donations came from new members. One donation came from Portland, Oregon. Livy said that after the newsletter went out, she picked up checks almost every day. Livy submitted an application for \$20,000 to the Jericho Conservation Commission which was approved. The application will now go to the Select Board, which may not have time to hold a meeting until January or February. Tom Baribault is the point person on that, but Sabina offered to follow up with him. If all goes well, VLT will close on the land in January.

Usually, Livy sends out a letter to current and past members asking for membership renewals but since we were fundraising for the Rawson property, she initially felt that it would be too much of an ask. However, because we are doing so well with the fundraising, Livy hopes to send a renewal letter by mid-November. Unfortunately, there has been staff turnover at the printer, so it may not go out until later. If things don't move quickly, she is considering going elsewhere and asked board members for ideas. The letter includes a photo and there is a small envelope included for those who prefer to mail in checks.

4. Land stewardship

Livy has been asked whether we will have the parking lot at Kikas Valley Farm plowed this winter. Sabina said there has been discussion about having the town plow it since Tyler Place is a public road and she will follow up on that. If that doesn't work, we'll try to contract it out.

Rebecca Roman, a Project Director with VLT came to Mills Riverside Park to look at the erosion along the banks of the Browns River with Livy. There was a follow-up walk with Kyle Birrer who works on ecological restoration at VLT and Lucas Goldfluss who is a conservation specialist for the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District. They also reviewed the plan created by the UVM students. Lucas is going to pursue a grant for erosion control. Spencer Hardy of the Farm Upstream provided a list of plants which could be used.

Phyl asked if there was any further discussion with Bob Naylor, but the government shutdown has temporarily halted discussions about replanting the Kikas Valley Farm Meadow.

5. Events

Livy would like to see another winter tree identification walk. The first one was very well attended so Livy will ask Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington if they are willing to do it again.

Livy has been at Mills Riverside Park every morning listening to owls. Several years ago, we had Outreach for Earth Stewardship at an outdoor annual meeting, and she was wondering if we should have them come in the winter for a presentation which might attract kids as well as adults. John Koier suggested Ethan Tapper as another presenter. He was a presenter during Covid.

6. Publicity

Livy has done a lot on Facebook and some on Instagram, but not MailChimp. Diana sent all the information to Caroline, but it doesn't look like she can do the work, so we currently don't have access to MailChimp and Livy doesn't know how to use it. Sabina said she is willing to learn. Livy will ask Caroline to send the information to Sabina.

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

7. Community News

Livy got a call from someone who said the town of Jericho is looking at Mills Riverside Park as a possible site for a wastewater system and wanted to give her a head's up. Livy said that can't happen for a variety of reasons.

8. Other business

Livy is doing several different jobs right now and really hopes we can get a Treasurer. Lisa taught her how to update our database. Since Caroline doesn't have the time, Livy asked Michael to get our stationery back which Livy will pick up from him. Then we need to figure out our next step, which might be looking for administrative assistance on Front Porch Forum. The job is at most a couple of hours a week. We hire people for the website and bookkeeping so perhaps we should do that with the Treasurer position. Livy said there is a company in Jericho that does that kind of work. The database work isn't too bad, but Livy can't print out the thank you letters.

Back in the day Hilaire was both Treasurer and Membership Secretary but that is a big ask. Lisa took over some of the work, but she was starting from scratch. Since then, we have started using Little Green Light which makes the task easier. What we need is someone to update our database and send out letters.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary

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