

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – January 5, 2026

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

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:01.

1. Review of minutes

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

2. Financial Report

Our total assets are \$1,485,970 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$98,495 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,211 in our money market account, \$135,788 in our checking account, \$30,817 in Schwab investments, \$11,839 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$10,064 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In December we took in \$40,232 consisting of \$7,623 in fundraising for the Rawson project, \$474 in realized gain, and \$32,334 in memberships. We spent \$304 consisting of \$28 in accounting and \$85 in subscriptions. We finished the year in the black having raised \$116,039 and only spent \$88,490

3. Membership and Fundraising

We got eight new members thanks to the Rawson project. They are not local, so we assume they are directly connected to the Rawsons. We had 158 donations last month: 74 for the Rawson project which includes membership and 84 that were just membership. More donations are coming in.

We have a substantial amount in our checking account so Livy would like to move \$50,000 to an account that accrues greater interest.

4. Land stewardship

We will be planting along the irrigation stream at Kikas Valley Farm in the spring, and we need to talk to either Paul Mazza or his daughter to explain what we're doing. The land will get staked ahead of time. We should talk to them and possibly the Wingate homeowners before the planting season. Sabina suggested inviting homeowners to come out and learn about the work that will be done and why it's important to have a buffer. Perhaps Sam of Friends of the Winooski River could lead a walk. Allaire could be our fallback person. We could also ask the homeowners' preference for plantings. Livy suggested that John or Sabina write something for the winter newsletter about the planting.

Phyl asked if there was any further discussion with Bob Naylor. At this point we don't have anything in writing from him and Michael said that since there is a chance for another

government shutdown, it would be good to get something in writing before that happens. Sabina will restart the conversation. Livy is optimistic that we will get the check. Sabina will nail down the exact amount we want, and we'll draft a letter requesting the money.

Sabina reached out to Jericho's Town Administrator in early December and asked if they would consider having the Town Highway Department plow the Kikas Valley Farm parking area when they plow Tyler Place. She did not get a response so she will send a follow up email.

Sabina asked if there was interest in reaching out to the Mt. Manfield Nordic Club to groom the trails for the skiers. Livy said the club is spending their time at Tomasi Meadow. Perhaps it's best to wait and see if the road crew is willing to plow the lot. We have paid people in the past to plow, and we could do that again but it doesn't make sense to invite people to ski if there is no place to park.

5. Land Projects

Livy got an update about the Rawson Farm. The 100 acres that will be conserved need to be surveyed which will cost \$10,400. 75% will be paid by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. We will pay the remaining 25% since our fundraising surpassed our goal. Closing will probably be in April or May.

6. Events

There will be a Food Hub dinner on January 7 from 4:30 to 7 pm.

On January 24, JULT and VLT will work together for an event at Mills Riverside Park. It starts at 1 pm with hot drinks and snacks in the pavilion. There will be sledding and Alaire will lead a nature walk.

Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington will do a winter tree identification walk later this winter.

We will have a table at Jericho Town Meeting Reimagined on January 20 starting at 5:00 and Livy would like help. Phyl agreed to get there at 5:30. Every table is asked to bring snacks. Livy said our display board is outdated, and it would be great to have more recent projects pictured.

Underhill still has a Town Meeting and Livy wanted to know if it makes sense to have a table there. John Koier said he'd talk to John Connell to see if he's interested. Livy said she could help but it would make more sense to have Underhill residents.

The Underhill Conservation Commission is having an Abenaki Forgiveness Moon Celebration on January 10th at Moore Park from 3 to 5 pm. There will be a small bonfire.

Livy called Sue Morse to speak at our Annual Meeting but hasn't heard back. Plan B is Craig Newman who would talk about and bring owls. Phyl said we should stick to a regular month for our Annual Meeting. We decided to go with the first Monday in May, which is when we had it for several years. It will probably be at the Jericho Community Center.

7. Publicity

The winter newsletter will be coming out soon. Livy posts regularly on Facebook but we no longer have access to MailChimp. Caroline was going to send Sabina information but has not done so yet. Sabina can also ask Diana who sent the information to Caroline. Livy is getting familiar with Little Green Light and is comfortable working on the database. Sabina offered to help Livy figure out how to send the letters more efficiently but for now, Livy is sending handwritten notes.

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

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8. Community News

Catherine McMains is not running for reelection for the Jericho Select Board. The two women who were appointed over the summer will be running for full terms and Joe Flynn will run for the open position. There may be others running.

9. Other business

Sabina said that the Jericho Sustainability Book Group will be reading *Is a River Alive?* by Robert Macfarlane. The discussion will be in late February.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary

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