

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – February 5, 2026

Board members present: John Connell, John Koier, Michael Lazorchak, Phyl Newbeck, Lisa Paone, and Livy Strong

Guest: Easton Horner

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:01.

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of January 2026 were approved.

2. Financial Report

Our total assets are \$1,485,970 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$99,596 at East Rise Credit Union, \$111,212 in our money market account, \$42,942 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 January we took in \$7,575 in memberships, which is high number but some of those donations were quite large so the number of memberships is actually down. We spent only \$129 consisting of \$104 for subscriptions and \$25 for supplies.

3. Fundraising/ membership

Covered in the financial report

4. Land stewardship

We will be doing some riparian planting along the farm fields at Kikas Valley Farm. We will have a tour for the neighbors to let them know what is happening, probably the second week of March before mud season starts. There will be an article for our next newsletter about that effort. We will need to figure out the best way to let people know about the walk, possibly putting flyers in the mailboxes of Windridge residents.

5. Events

On February 7, the Vermont Coverts will have a tree identification walk at Mills Riverside Park. JULT is not involved in it. On February 28 we will have a joint event at the park with Vermont Land Trust which was postponed due to cold weather on the original date. Dave Barrington and Cathy Paris will lead a nature walk. Livy will reach out to the usual leaders for wildflower and bird walks but would like some more ideas. Lisa suggested another tracking event.

Our Annual Meeting will be May 4. Livy contacted Craig Newman from Outreach for Earth Stewardship who runs a bird rehabilitation center at Shelburne Farms. He has some “ambassador birds” including owls, a turkey vulture, and some others. He said that soccer goals are bad traps for owls, so we have taken them down at Mills Riverside Park when they are not in use. We will probably have the meeting at the Jericho Community Center.

6. Publicity

Sabina has figured out how to do MailChimp which is really helpful for reminders for events, membership renewals, etc. It takes about a month to get the newsletter out while MailChimp takes a day. Livy is trying to keep us updated on Facebook and Instagram. She asked board members to send photos that she can use.

Livy asked if either of the Underhill Board members would be willing to staff a table at Underhill’s Town Meeting. John Connell and John Koier said they would do that.

We will also talk about having a table at the Jericho Underhill Farmers’ Market as that season approaches.

7. Community News

John Koier went to the most recent Jericho Underhill Rood Hub meeting. There will be a community lunch this summer at the Davis Farm.

8. Introducing Easton Horner

Easton is a senior at UVM majoring in political science and minoring in environmental studies. He intends to eventually go to law school but will take a few years off to learn other ways to protect the environment. Michael said that Easton has done some work with Vermont Parks and perhaps he can assist us in engaging kids at the Farmers’ Market. One of our struggles is how to reach out to young families and children.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary

.