

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – March 2, 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 February 2026 were approved.

2. Financial Report

Our total assets are \$1,499,014 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$99,596 at East Rise Credit Union, \$111,213 in our money market account, \$48,194 in our checking account, \$30,603 in Schwab investments, \$11,839 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$10,064 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In February we took in \$5,509 memberships. We spent \$93 on accounting and \$85 for subscriptions.

3. Membership and Fundraising

Lisa has been collecting the mail and helping with thank you notes. She intends to return to the JULT Board. John Connell will stay on the board but will not attend any Zoom meetings.

4. Land stewardship

John Koier reported that the replanting of riparian buffer mowed by Bob Naylor's contractor is being organized by Katie Kain and will occur in April. The cost will be \$2,500.00

Sam Puddicombe of Friends of the Winooski River will be leading a walk for interested parties along the southern drainage ditch at Kikas Valley Farm on March 25 at 5:30 PM. Katie will also be at the walk and Sabina will be putting together a flyer to advertise the event which will be put in the mailboxes of people who live on Tyler Place. Livy suggested also reaching out to the Mazza family but not publicizing it beyond the neighbors.

Sam will also lead the proposed planting of the riparian buffer on both sides of the ditch with help from volunteers from Sun Common during the month of April.

The Kikas Valley Farm kiosk is locked, and we haven't been able to find the key. The information in the kiosk is outdated.

We had some complaints about dog poop several years ago, so Livy ordered a sign asking people to clean up after their dogs. That has been there for a long time. Livy thinks the majority of the dog walkers who use the area are local. Sabina said there is one local dog that is out of control.

Sabina and John discussed grant possibilities and the reaction of homeowners to the presence of beavers. She wishes that Mazza didn't over till the land which is destroying the topsoil. She would love to see that section which is only a small portion of the farm turned into a community orchard.

5. Events

Sabina and Michael joined Livy for the JULT/VLT stroll at the Mills Riverside Park and Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington's winter tree identification walk. They provided a guide for how to identify trees in winter. The group didn't walk far but got to see several tree species and discussed tree diseases. There were at least 20 people. The guide will be posted on the Jericho Underhill Park District website.

John Koier and John Connell will have a table at Underhill Town Meeting tomorrow. Easton will be at the table, as well.

The spring wildflower walk will be in the afternoon of May 2nd at Mills Riverside Park.

The annual meeting is scheduled for May 7th at the Jericho Community Center, starting at 6:30.

Evergreen Erb's bird walk is May 16th.

There will also be a fern walk during the summer.

1. Publicity

Phyl announced that she has abandoned her project of putting board bios on the website due to lack of interest by the board. Michael said he was about to send his bio, and the rest of those present said they would send something. We will take a group picture at the annual meeting.

Livy is working on the spring newsletter.

Sabina has been using MailChimp and it seems to be working.

Livy said she was really impressed with the posters that Easton created for JULT. Michael has been working with Easton who has also volunteered to help with trail work. He has done some work for Grand Isle State Park.

2. Community News

The Food Hub has announced their March events.

Both Jericho and Underhill have competitive Selectboard races.

3. Any other business

Caroline is moving to Miami. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, Caroline was removed from the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary

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