

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – June 7, 2021

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

Guest: Diana Dunn

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of March and April, 2021 were approved.

2. Financial Report

In April we took in \$2,160 in memberships and spent only \$453 for membership expenses (\$195), postage (\$83) and web hosting (\$175). In May we only took in \$172 in membership and spent \$622 for legal expenses (\$165) and membership dues (\$425 for the Land Trust Alliance) and expenses (\$21). We got several new members thanks to Diana's work at the annual bird walk.

Our total assets are \$1,206,115 consisting of \$985,487 in fixed assets, \$91,662 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$26,186 in our money market account, \$33,950 in our checking account, \$28,568 in Schwab investments, \$11,064 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$9,197 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

3. Membership and fundraising

We have had discussions about a booth at the farmers' market which would be in compliance with market regulations. Livy and Diana will discuss possible dates and then check to see if they are available. Diana thinks it might be easier not to set up a tent but to greet people when they arrive. Livy asked board members if they had any ideas for summer events which tend to increase our membership.

4. Land Stewardship

The Naylor's are not interested in taking part in our pasture project but John and Sabina still think it's worth doing because it's the right thing to do. The costs should be minimal but we can't get started until late fall, at the earliest. Sabina will find out what is involved in the Abenaki gathering part of the agreement. Perhaps we can have one of the chiefs at our next meeting.

John had asked Will to double up on the spraying he has been doing and he agreed. The Intervale crew wants to come back. When they cut the buckthorn, it came back but what they have been digging up has not. We will have the Intervale folks come for a couple of visits. Sabina thinks we should tap into some possible grant funding which would make it easier to have multiple options. John will look into NRCS funding.

5. Land projects

The MOU from VLT was sent to the town of Jericho for the Mobbs property. Livy said the Mobbs committee has been wonderful to work with.

## 6. Publicity

Hilaire is working on the strawberry coupons and hopes to have them printed soon. We will need to put stamps on each one. Livy is working on the summer newsletter and asked board members to submit articles if they are so inclined. It would be great to have something on the possible Abenaki gathering. Diana said the brochures were really popular at the bird walk and she was asked to do something for next year's wildflower walk. She thanked Sabina for the seed balls that she prepared. Diana is also interested in having a strawberry give away which would tie in to some social justice/farming issues.

Diana has worked with Catherine McMains to put an Essex Art League show on at Jericho Town Hall. Diana said many Art League members, including the league itself, are also members of JULT. The exhibit will include paintings done on JULT land. The Essex Art League will put out a call for artists soon and we may include that in our summer newsletter.

Diana had trouble connecting to our potential intern and sent her a list of ten things that she would love to have help with. The intern expressed interest in doing an analysis of other websites to see what works and what doesn't but she hasn't followed up. She signed up with the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library to do a class teaching art journaling for children 8-12 in July. It will be advertised as being in cooperation with JULT.

Diana has been busy but she will continue to post on Instagram once or twice a week which she hopes will increase interaction with others. She thinks it might be easier for us to do the strawberry coupon by email because then we could measure use of them.

## 7. Events

The wildflower walk was so well attended that it was broken into two different walks.

Sabina said the conservation commission is interested in having the next bio blitz at Mills Riverside Park. It would probably take place in September.

## 8. Community news

The covered bridge at Mills Riverside Park is in need of reconstruction. The park district just sent out for bids. Livy thinks fundraising will be limited but some will need to be done. The problem is the Old Red Mill is also going to be doing fundraising and we may have two other projects that need money. Livy visited with the Jericho Select Board and asked if we could use the old bridge that is being kept at the town garage to keep access to the park while reconstruction is taking place since we are average over 400 people a day. Because of Covid, it is unlikely the project can start until October.

John said the governor signed off on Underhill's new town charter which allows for the recall of an elected official so there may be a recall election coming up. They need 390 signatures which can be easily done.

9. Any other business

There are 15 candidates from all over the country for Jericho town administrator.

10. In person meetings this summer?

Livy suggested having a group barbecue this summer. We will consider returning to in-person meetings at the community center but we will do our next meeting via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary