

JULT Annual Meeting  
May 6, 2019

Present: Jean Archibald, Connie Belkovicz, Carolyn Wadhams Bennett, Peter Bennett, Yuri Bihun, Nancy Carey, Jason Crooks, Sabina Ernst, Margaret Fowle, Mark Green, Carla Hochschild, Mary Kintner, Barbie Koier, John Koier, Michael Lazorchack, Carolyn Leighton, Bill McMains, Catherine McMains, Grace Nelson, Phyl Newbeck, Julie Schroeder, John Schroeder, Livy Strong, Hilaire Thomas, Steve Webster, Jeff York

Livy introduced the JULT board members. John Koier heads our Stewardship Committee, Phyl Newbeck is our Secretary and Hilaire Thomas is our Treasurer. Sabina Ernst and Michael Lazorchak are our newest members.

Livy invited members to attend a 7 p.m. meeting at Underhill Town Hall on May 8 to discuss the Tomasi property. John Tomasi called Livy a year ago regarding the hayfield in front of Casey's Hill. On April 18 we signed a purchase and sale agreement for the meadow. The land was appraised at \$225,000 but they were willing to sell it to us for \$180,000. There are some additional costs (\$28,000 for incidentals and \$20,000 to VLT) so our goal is to raise \$224,000 and we have just started the process. There will be a bigger discussion at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will ask Underhill for \$20,000 and if things go well, the land will be deeded to the town. We submitted a grant for \$155,000 to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and we will know if we are successful in June. Our deadline for the purchase is August, 2020.

We have also been talking to the Mobbs Committee about conserving Mobbs Farm which is owned by the town of Jericho. It would probably cost \$40,000 to conserve it. We are also in conversations with the Wood family who would like to add twelve acres to the Jericho Water District property.

Hilaire provided the financial report. Our income for 2018 was \$28,000 and our expenses were just under \$14,000. Our total liquid funds are \$172,000 in bank accounts and other financial instruments. We also have fixed assets (Kikas Valley Farm, Wolfrun Natural Area and Gateway) which are worth roughly \$985,000. In 2017, we had two parcels donated to us which were adjacent to Kikas Valley Farm and we initially had to pay full taxes on those parcels until we were able to consolidate them under Current Use and get a refund on what we overpaid. A question was asked as to whether the financial report is on our website and although it isn't yet, it will be.

John noted that we own, manage, pay taxes and allow public access on 763 acres. We had two monitoring visits this year. One was at Kikas Valley Farm from Vermont Land Trust and the other was at the Gateway Property. John will be walking Wolfrun with our forestry consultant this week. We have two crews who will be attacking invasive species including professionally guided flame wielding at Kikas Valley Farm. John and Sabina tried to mark boundary of the Overlook property at Kikas Valley but were unable to negotiate the snow and will return to finish the job.

We have a number of events coming up. There is an annual bird talk with Evergreen Erb at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library on May 9, the annual bird walk with Evergreen and Sabina at Mills Riverside Park at 7 a.m. on May 11 and a wildflower walk with Michele Tulis on May 18. We are always seeking ideas for other events.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, Michael Lazorchak was elected to a three-year term on the board. Michael is a graduate of Vermont Law School. He did land trust, firefighting and legal work out west and returned to Vermont last year. He wrote to every land trust in the state and Livy was the only one who responded so he began coming to meetings despite living in Montpelier. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, Hilaire Thomas was reelected to another three-year term on the board.

A question was asked about the sign at Mills Riverside Park which was blown down by a strong wind. The sign was insured for \$2,400 and the initial quote to restore it was almost \$6,000. The sign had been up for twenty years and the posts had rotten. Livy got a better quote but it will take a while before the work is done.

Livy introduced biologist Margaret Fowle, a conservation biologist with Vermont Audubon who gave a talk entitled Vermont's Wildlife in a Changing Climate.