

## Jericho Underhill Land Trust Annual Meeting – May 2, 2016

Board members present: John Koier, Phyl Newbeck, John Schroeder, Livy Strong and Hilaire Thomas

Guests present: Jean Archibald, Yuri Bihun, Eric Bishop, Judy Bond, Sherwood Brown, Nancy Carey, Andy Cochran, Bob Cochran, Luke Dowley, Matthew Ellison (and sons), Kit Emery, Jim Fredericks, Holly Gorton, JoAnn Hanowski, Bryan Harnett, Monica John, Mary Kitner, Lindsay Knowlton, Barbie Koier, Adrian Kuzmiller (NY), Antoinette Kuzmiller (NY) < Carolyn Leighton, Irene Linde, Bill McMains, Catherine McMains, Peggy McCullagh, Nancy McRae, Marlene Miller, Audrey Mindell, Liza Mindell, Robyn Mindell, Steve Mindell, Sue Morse, Andie Neil, Grace Nelson, Leon Pacifici, Mary Pacifici, Pam Parshall, Burt Porter, Grover Prescott, Marcia Prescott, Walter Senn, Julie Schroeder, Bobbie Summers, Dan Steinbauer, Anna Vaserstein, Joanna Weinstock, Bill Wheeler, Charlotte Wheeler, Bill Williams, and two unknowns

### 1. Introductions

Livy Strong introduced the members of the board and explained their roles. Livy is the Chair, John Koier heads our Land Stewardship Committee, Hilaire Thomas is the Treasurer, Phyl Newbeck is the Secretary, and John Schroeder is in charge of publications and marketing.

### 2. Voting

Upon a motion made and seconded, Hilaire was re-elected to a three-year term.

### 3. Approval of the 2015 minutes

Upon a motion made and seconded, the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were approved.

### 4. Financial Report

Hilaire reported that last year we took in \$18,545 and spent \$13,452 so we had a net income of \$5,092. As of April 30, our net worth is \$792,240 which includes \$660,487 in fixed assets, \$45,000 in our checking account, \$53,000 in Schwab investments, \$26,000 in our money market account and \$7,400 at the Vermont Community Foundation. The board was asked if we had a financial advisor since we have our money in places that do not provide much interest. We do not have an advisor and we try to keep our funds somewhat liquid in case we need to purchase land.

### 5. Land Stewardship

John Koier said that our latest acquisition was the Gateway property to Wolfrun which we are now just calling Wolfrun. That property is actually in Bolton and we also have property in Richmond. Last year we had a thinning operation at Gateway done by Dickie Streeter of Bolton at no charge since he took the firewood. We will be doing a tour of the patch cut that was done

as part of our forest management plan to see what changes have taken place in the vegetation and wildlife activity. We will look at the land through the eyes of white-tail deer, turkey and other animals.

## 6. Upcoming Events

Other upcoming events are our annual bird walk with Evergreen Erb at 7 a.m. on May 21 at Mills Riverside Park which will be preceded by a discussion at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library on May 19 at 6:30 p.m. Livy said the warblers have already arrived and since leaf out hasn't occurred, the birds will be more visible. On May 28, Johanna Carpenter will lead a cairn walk at the southern part of Wolfrun Natural Area. We'll meet at Jericho Community Center at 9:30 to carpool and start the walk at 10 a.m.

## 7. Summary of 2015

Last year we worked quietly. We don't have an active land project so we have been listening to Select Board and Planning Commission meetings to see what is taking place. We have been watching the Rivers property and are waiting to see if an opportunity presents itself. We are also reaching a critical time right now. Some of the treasured landscapes that we always thought would be present in our two towns may not be there in the future. Jericho no longer has town land contracts. Underhill is scrutinizing their contracts as well. If those land owners don't go into current use, they may not be able to keep their properties open and undeveloped. We've talked to some of those landowners and hope to have a chance to work with them.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21

Minutes respectfully submitted by Phyl Newbeck