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Lisa Paone
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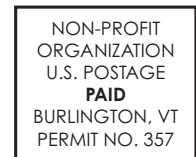
Sheryl Leslie
Financial Secretary

Sabina Ernst

Michael Lazorchak

John Connell

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Forwarding Service Requested

Membership Matters!



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Fall Newsletter 2026



Casey's Hill and the Tomasi Meadow

Underhill, Vermont



The conserved farms, forests, and open fields of Jericho and Underhill did not protect themselves. They are here because landowners decided, generation after generation, that the land is worth caring for. The Jericho Underhill Land Trust works to make this happen! Your Membership donation is vital. Thank you!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

JULT's work is only possible with your support. There are several ways to get involved:

- **Renew your membership or become a member** to support ongoing conservation and land stewardship.
- **Volunteer** for trail maintenance, community events, or administrative work.
- **Attend a board meeting** — JULT meets on the first Monday of every month, either via Zoom or at the Jericho Community Center's backroom.
- **If you own land** and want to explore conservation options, reach out. JULT works one-on-one with landowners to find approaches that serve the landowner's goals.

You can contact the Jericho Underhill Land Trust by mail at PO Box 80, Jericho, Vermont 05465, by phone at (802) 899-2693, or by email at julandtrust@gmail.com. More information is available at www.jult.org and on Facebook.

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www.facebook.com/Jericho-Underhill-Land-Trust

AUTUMN IS HERE!

The subtle changes of this new season multiply until fall has inevitably replaced summer. Our days are shorter and darker; our trees are vibrant with color, our countryside is cleaned of hay and harvested, and many birds announce their departure to warmer climates. The hazy vacation warmth has been replaced by the seriousness of preparing for winter: stocking the woodpile, banking the house, mulching the garden, and getting ready for the first snow.

How special it is to call Jericho and Underhill home and to enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us through every season



RAWSON FARMLAND CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Rawson Farm's land conservation initiative was envisioned as a cornerstone project, protecting open space and preserving the agricultural heritage that helps to define our community. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, \$20,000 was successfully raised to meet part of the funding gap. JULT also applied for \$20,000 from the Town of Jericho's Conservation Reserve Fund, which was approved. Federal and state funding completed the necessary amount for a total of \$825,000 to purchase the development rights on the Rawson's Jericho parcel of 100 acres.

Working with the Vermont Land Trust, and after months of planning, negotiation, and due diligence, we must share an unfortunate but important update: the Rawson Farm's conservation project will not move forward at this time. Family circumstances

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We're on the web: www.jult.org

Remember to "Like" us on



You Are Invited!! Save The Dates And Times



Check our website, Facebook page, Instagram,
and Front Porch Forum for important updates.

ANNUAL FALL WILDFLOWER WALK SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 MILLS RIVERSIDE PARK – 9:00 AM TO 12 NOON

Which Fall wildflowers are truly native to Vermont? How do I tell goldenrod from ragweed? Which asters bloom latest? Which fall wildflowers support bees and butterflies the best? Come join plant biologists Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington for another popular nature walk! We will be exploring the wide variety of fall wildflowers that populate the lower trails of Mills Riverside Park. This is a casual outing; all ages are welcome.

Please contact JULT at julandtrust@gmail.com with any questions.
Other event ideas that you may have...just let us know!

\$50,000 GRANT AWARDED FOR THE WOLFRUN NATURAL AREA

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) is pleased to announce that we have received a \$50,000 grant to make the Wolfrun Natural Area more welcoming, more accessible, and more informative for all visitors. This funding marks a major step forward in improving one of the region's most ecologically diverse and important conservation properties.

The Wolfrun Natural Area encompasses over 400 acres of rugged terrain and offers extensive wetlands and forest. Numerous species make this remote land their home. Purchased and conserved by JULT in 2003, with an additional 123 acres added in 2010, this large and varied landscape has much

to appreciate. The grant award will support a number of improvements designed to help visitors better understand, navigate, and appreciate this exceptional land. Some planned improvements include a Welcome Kiosk at the entrance that will have a large map of the property, the basic trail system, and highlight key natural areas. There will also be interpretive signs located at various habitat areas, along with better signage throughout, including the boundaries. Also, our website information will be more detailed and user-friendly. We will keep you updated as we move forward to provide better access to the Wolfrun Natural Area.

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD MEMBERS!

The business of conserving land is often lengthy and complicated. Throughout the years, JULT's dedicated board members have contributed their skills and talents to keep our mission focused and robust. This all-volunteer crew is exceptional in every way. So, a special thanks to our board members:

Phyl Newbeck, John Koier, John Connell, Sabina Ernst, Lisa Paone, Michael Lazorchak, and to all of our supporting members!

Interested in learning more about what we do and volunteering...just let us know! We have land projects, administrative tasks, public outreach, and more. We are always in need of help.

ROOTS IN THE LAND

Conservation is sometimes thought of as an abstract good, some distant wilderness, remote protection. But JULT is working right here in our community, saving farms for local food production, keeping forests vibrant for wildlife while providing cleaner water and air. Recreational trails offer retreats into nature and away from our busy lives. Scenic vistas lift the spirits and excite our enjoyment about living here. The results of JULT's quiet and persistent work are visible all around us.

Please consider continuing your support of JULT by renewing your membership or joining us for the first time. Visit www.jult.org for more information.

MEMBERSHIPS MATTER

HOW TO BAFFLE A BEAVER!

JULT's land stewardship team is working to reduce beaver conflicts at Kikas Valley Farm. This is a complicated business that includes multiple parties with varied interests and concerns. We have the beavers, who have enjoyed several years of dam and lodge building and creating an expansive wetland on private property. We have JULT's pastureland included as beaver territory with an obstructed road culvert, now cleared. We have homeowners concerned about the diminished ability of stormwater to dissipate and possible flooding. We have had several meetings, along with expert consultations, and we are striving for a win/win solution for all. JULT has reached out to Skip Lisle, the well-known inventor of the "Beaver Deceiver," for assistance. This is a water-flow control device made of pipe and fencing material that quietly lowers the water behind the dam. Beavers do not detect the leak, which is the instinctive trigger for them to build and reinforce. Sufficient water remains for beaver needs, but the Beaver Deceiver also reduces flooding risk. We are confident that a solution exists that will be satisfactory for all....including the beavers.

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RAWSON FARMLAND...

have created a variety of challenges that have stalled current progress. The future may include a resumption of our shared desire to permanently protect this land, but we cannot confirm this. And so, for the very first time, JULT has fundraised for an important land conservation project, which may not happen.

We are committed to honoring donor intent with clarity and integrity. Every contribution was made with the expectation that it would support conserving the Jericho parcel of the Rawson Farm. Several options are available:

1. Apply the donation to our next conservation project

Our mission continues as we seek to work with interested landowners in protecting important working landscapes, wildlife habitats, and scenic vistas. Donor support can be directed toward the next viable project, ensuring that the original purpose---protecting land---remains intact. This option allows your gift to continue to assist the conservation outcomes that you care about.

2. Request a full return of the donation

If you prefer, we will return your contribution in full. Donor intent is paramount, and we respect that some supporters gave for this specific land conservation project. Simply contact us at julandtrust@gmail.com for a full refund.

Looking Ahead

Although the Rawson Farm project may not come to fruition, the momentum it created---community engagement, shared purpose, and a clear mandate for conservation continues. Every day, JULT is striving to protect important landscape today and for tomorrow. None of this could happen without your support.

