



Livy Strong
Chair

John Koier
Vice Chair

Phyl Newbeck
Secretary

Hilaire Thomas
Treasurer

Sabina Ernst

Michael Lazorchak



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BURLINGTON, VT
PERMIT NO. 357

Return Service Requested

Membership Matters!



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Autumn 2019



Tomasi Meadow

Help Protect our future landscape... TODAY

Please note: All JULT memberships now run on a calendar year from January 1st to December 31st.

Please sign me up for:

- Conservator** Membership \$500
- Steward** Membership \$100
- Sponsor** Membership \$50
- Family** Membership \$35
- Individual** Membership \$25
- Student/Senior** Membership \$10
- Lifetime** Membership \$1,000

(Beat inflation and avoid renewal notices!)

Please contact me regarding:

- Conservation options for my land
- Making a gift of stock
- Other planned giving opportunities
- Volunteer opportunities:
 - ___ Fundraising/Events
 - ___ Office/Administration
 - ___ Trails/Land Stewardship

Other Considerations:

- My employer's matching gift is enclosed.
- Please **do not** send me a "Thank-you" gift.
- I wish to remain anonymous.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Please make **checks** payable to **JULT** and mail to the address below. Or you may **pay by credit card** via our website: www.jult.org. All contributions are tax-deductible.

TOMASI MEADOW, AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY!

Every occasion that a land trust has to protect an important property relies on an interested landowner. The Tomasi family approached the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) and the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) with a desire to sell and permanently conserve their open meadow. This 16-acre property forms the scenic vista that leads to Casey's Hill. It provides an iconic view that all travelers, whether on foot or in a vehicle, can admire. The meadow also offers productive soil for hay crops and opportunities for year-round recreational use such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and walking. Casey's Hill, which is permanently conserved, draws many sledders in the winter with the fastest often ending their ride in the Tomasi Meadow.

Following early discussions, an appraisal was conducted to determine the value of the property. The Tomasi family very generously agreed to sell the land for below appraised value, and a purchase and sale agreement was created between the Tomasi family and the VLT with a closing by August 30, 2020. This legal document is assignable to the Town of Underhill to make the purchase of the land directly. The total budget including associated conservation costs is \$273,000, which includes a stewardship endowment for the monitoring of this land in perpetuity by the VLT. The Tomasi donation of \$45,000 in value towards the

Continued on Page 2...



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

Remember to "Like" us on



...Continued from page 1

purchase and conservation of this land brings the final funds to be raised to \$228,000.

Both land trusts met with the Underhill Selectboard in February and May to update and receive feedback. A grant application by the VLT to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board was submitted in April for \$155,000. This is the greatest amount of funding possible for a local community project. A decision will be made at the end of September. Depending on the level of the grant award, both land trusts will be seeking additional financial support through other grants and fundraising. We expect needing a minimum of \$53,000 to be raised locally. In addition, we have asked the Selectboard to consider a \$20,000 contribution towards this purchase from the Town. Back in 2005, the Town contributed \$20,000 towards the sale and conservation of Casey's Hill. We expect that any funding and Town ownership of this land will be presented at Town Meeting for a vote in March.



We have had one public meeting at Town Hall thus far and will be having more. Both land trusts also recently hosted a community walk of the Tomasi Meadow with more planned. This perimeter walk included a beautiful, scenic overlook to a neighboring, expansive wetland along with a forested trail to Casey's Hill. Evidence of wildlife abound, with black bear droppings punctuating the perimeter trail. These attributes are not visible from the road and only heighten the unique value of the Tomasi Meadow.

What is next? Both JULT and VLT will be attending the board meeting of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board on September 24, 2019 to give testimony as to the importance of the Tomasi Meadow. We will keep the community updated as to our progress and financial need. Please look forward to more outreach through Town-wide meetings and walks. These events will be well publicized through JULT's Facebook page and website, Front Porch Forum, emails, posters and joint mailings.

EXQUISITE AUTUMN

How quickly time passes as one season transitions into another. Spring seems to linger with fresh green leaves quietly unfurling. Summer is a blur of luxuriant growth for the countryside as well as the garden. Then we ease into our briefest and brightest season, autumn. Subtle changes in light and air hint at the explosion of color that will soon highlight our varied landscapes. This is the perfect time to explore the fields and forest. We invite you to join us for a walk and enjoy our shortest season. There is no better way for us to celebrate the special natural places that we all call home.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust depends entirely on membership donations. Our all-volunteer board is dedicated to permanently protecting the special natural places that we cherish within our community. This work includes assisting landowners with their conservation objectives. Whether the land is wild and diverse, farm or forest, your local land trust is involved. Please consider joining our effort by becoming a member or renewing your membership. This can be accomplished online as well as via mail. We thank you!

MAKING PROGRESS AGAINST INVASIVE PLANTS

Jericho Underhill Land Trust owns and stewards 763-acres of mostly forested landscape within Chittenden County. This acreage is split roughly into two equal sized parcels. Invasive plant populations do not impact the Wolfrun Natural Area but they are found at Kikas Valley Farm. We have documented buckthorn, Japanese honeysuckle and poison parsnip along field edges and hedgerows surrounding the agricultural fields. Japanese barberry has also been found in areas throughout the uphill, forested, portions of Kikas Valley Farm. With the addition of the 75-acre Kikas Valley Farm Overlook a couple of years ago, we discovered that this acreage is well populated with barberry, almost doubling the amount of barberry that we have on the property.

After a couple of poorly attended volunteer invasive plant work parties in the past, we decided that it was necessary to move forward quickly to stem the tide and seek professional help. We hired Will Dunkley to flame weed barberry this spring and he was able to clear about 6 acres at a cost to us of \$2,345.50. Working back from the edge of the infestation to, hopefully keep the barberry from spreading to unimpacted areas and the Barber Farm property, which we abut.

We also hired The Intervale Conservation Nursery invasive task force and spent \$1,000.00 last summer and another \$1,000.00 this summer. They were able to manually clear 300 barberry, 50 honeysuckle and 2,500 buckthorn plants from the edges of the agricultural area. The Intervale crew will be coming again in late summer or fall to spend time in the Overlook area, concentrating on barberry removal.

These are some of the ongoing costs associated with our land stewardship that we did not immediately anticipate. We also did not want to use glyphosate that would have been less expensive. With this in mind, we are forming a JULT Invasive Plant Removal Fund.

Contributions are welcomed and can be sent directly to JULT P.O.Box 80, Jericho, VT. 05465 or through the contribution box on our website with the comment: Invasives.



Want to learn more about the different methods that we are using to remove invasive plants? Please contact John Koier, Land Stewardship Director, at 899-1830.

YOU ARE INVITED!

September 7, 2019 10 a.m. to 12-noon • Fall

Wildflower Walk at Mills Riverside Park – Come join Liz Thompson for a casual walk along the trails of the park. We will be exploring the many plants that brighten the landscape and provide fall color. Liz is the Director of Conservation Science for the Vermont Land Trust and co-author of *Wetland, Woodland, Wild-land: A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont*. Liz also helped start Vermont's Natural Heritage program that protects fragile natural areas. In addition, Liz also teaches field botany and plant ecology at the University of Vermont. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the natural world around us. There will be refreshments at the pavilion and all are welcome.



October 5, 2019 10 a.m. to 12-noon • Wolfrun

Natural Area – The ever popular Cairn Walk with Joanna Carpenter is an adventure into the past. This easy walk takes us to the historic platform cairns at the southern end of the Wolfrun Natural Area. These rock creations were carefully constructed and have stood the test of time. Some are in the shape of an animal with long tails, some pillar-like with quartz inserts. All are intriguing. We will be carpooling at the Jericho Community Center at 9:30 a.m.

Please contact JULT at 899-2693 or julandtrust@gmail.com with any questions.