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*Membership Matters!*



# LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Fall 2020



Photo credit: Sheri Larson

## 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](http://www.jult.org). All contributions are tax-deductible.

## TOMASI MEADOW, NOW CONSERVED!

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust is very pleased to announce that the Tomasi Meadow is now permanently conserved and owned by the Town of Underhill! This iconic view leading to Casey's Hill greets everyone traveling along Pleasant Valley Rd. and forms a scenic gateway to Mt. Mansfield. The Tomasi Meadow's pastoral setting also offers year round recreational opportunities such as walking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and sledding. Its high quality agricultural soils have produced excellent hay for many years. This land also provides a buffer to the extensive Browns River wetland complex. There are many reasons to celebrate the Tomasi Meadow, and its conservation for today.....and tomorrow.

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust wishes to thank the Tomasi family for their keen desire to see their meadow protected and their donation of appraised value, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for substantial grant support, our local community for significant financial contributions and a positive vote at the Underhill Town Meeting. Both the Jericho Underhill Land Trust and the Vermont Land Trust collaborated to assist with this land conservation opportunity. The Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board hold the conservation easement on the Tomasi Meadow. This conservation easement protects public access and important natural features. It also recognizes the Tomasi Meadow for outdoor recreation and education, productive agricultural land and natural habitats. We all have much to celebrate as the Tomasi Meadow joins Casey's Hill in being permanently conserved.



We're on the web: [www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org)

Remember to "Like" us on



## PROTECTING MOBBS FARM

Well over a year ago, a conversation began about permanently conserving the Mobbs Farm. This Town owned land of over 260-acres has become a key recreational area for the community. The Mobbs Committee, which has an advisory role to the Selectboard, manages this property. Great thought and public engagement have taken place to consider the most appropriate uses for this land and to balance the recreational needs of the community while respecting the natural habitats that help make Mobbs Farm so special. Many citizens assume that their accustomed walk, bike or horseback ride will always be available but this land is not conserved. Future demands could alter this landscape that we cherish.

On Town Meeting Day, March 3, 2020, the Mobbs Committee conducted a survey to gather the community's thoughts about conserving Mobbs Farm. Here are some of the highlights from the 312 completed surveys:

- 78% of respondents assumed that Mobbs Farm was already conserved.
- 85% of respondents would definitely or likely support conservation of Mobbs Farm. An additional 12% are interested in learning more about land conservation in consideration of the possible conservation of Mobbs Farm.
- In the comments section of the survey, there were many expressions of love for the property and support for its protection.

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust will be discussing the permanent conservation of Mobbs Farm with the Mobbs Committee, the Jericho Selectboard, the Jericho Conservation Commission, the Trails Committee, and all interested folks. It is our hope that this land will be protected for today's enjoyment as well as tomorrow's.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Your all-volunteer local land trust depends exclusively on membership contributions to support our conservation work. Without this help we could not have saved Mills Riverside Park, the Wolfrun Natural Area, Kikas Valley Farm, Casey's Hill, the Tomasi Meadow and hundreds of private acres. Our lean budget is geared for one thing...land conservation! THANK YOU for your annual membership.



## NATURE NEVER CLOSES

How refreshing it is to know that, despite the corona virus pandemic, we always have beautiful places to go. How fortunate we are to escape the stresses and uncertainty of Covid-19 by walking forested trails, viewing scenic vistas, and marveling at the explosion of bright blue asters. It is so reassuring to know that these natural wonders are here for us, even now. Nature, unlike stores and restaurants, never closes. Today there is a renewed appreciation for the wild places and for farm and forest. JULT is extremely pleased to offer a variety of conserved natural areas for your enjoyment. They include the Wolfrun Natural Area and Kikas Valley Farm. Please visit to our website for more information at [www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org).

## YOU WERE INVITED!

Our Annual Meeting in May, our bird walk with Evergreen Erb and our spring wildflower walk with Michele Toulis were all cancelled sadly due to the corona virus. However we do have the Fall wildflower walk with Liz Thompson at Mills Riverside Park! This virtual event is hosted by both the Jericho Underhill Land Trust and the Vermont Land Trust and can be accessed by going to this link : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMdruweEMZ4&t=39s>

## TO OUR DONORS

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust would like to thank all of the donors who helped to purchase and conserve the Tomasi Meadow for the Town of Underhill. We all have much to celebrate!

—  
**Tomasi Family**  
**Vermont Housing and Conservation Board**  
**Jericho Underhill Land Trust**  
**Town of Underhill**

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