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Membership Matters!



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Fall Newsletter 2025



Burton Rawson and Livy Strong reviewing the property map. Photo credit: Allen Karnatz

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:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator Membership | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward Membership | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor Membership | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior Membership | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership | \$1,000 |

Life-time membership
(Beat inflation and avoid renewal notices!)

Other Considerations:

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

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

Legacy Planning:

Please consider JULT gifts that might include a bequest or charitable income gift. Ask an attorney or estate planner about your options.

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.

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



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

Remember to “Like” us on



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HELP PROTECT WHAT IS POSSIBLE: THE RAWSON FARM

statement about our towns' identity and future. Recent protections include the Riverside Meadow (2022), The Farm Upstream (2023), and the Davis Farm (2024). Now we need your help to conserve 100 acres of the Rawson Farm!

The Challenge

The appraised value of the Jericho parcel is \$825,000. Burton Rawson has generously agreed to receive \$125,000 less, which is called a bargain sale. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) has approved \$271,000 in funding, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has approved \$412,500. JULT has committed to raising \$20,000 and will request \$20,000 from the Town of Jericho's Conservation Reserve Fund to help pay for transaction costs. If all goes well, this land will be conserved by the end of this year. As in all conservation easements, Burton will continue to own and manage his farm, but with development restrictions and preserving its future agricultural use.

Since the early 1800s, the Rawson Farm has been a stalwart sign of our community's diverse rural economy.

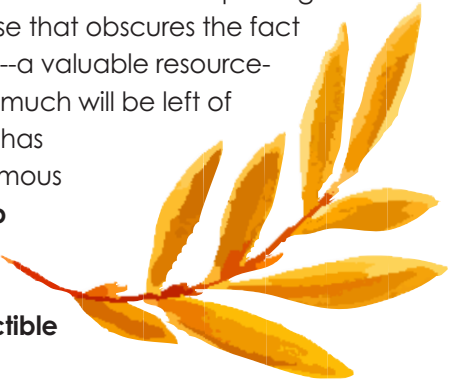
NEW BOARD MEMBER, CAROLINE KLOSOWSKI

Let us introduce you to our newest board member, Caroline Klosowski. Caroline will be stepping into the role of Membership secretary as well as assisting with communications and outreach. She has exemplary credentials, and we are delighted to add Caroline to our Board of Trustees. Caroline is a communications and marketing professional passionate about community engagement, clean energy, and creative storytelling. At Stowe Electric Department, she leads outreach and customer communications. Her background spans nonprofit development, consulting, strategic marketing, and public sector communications, with experience growing digital audiences, managing campaigns, and building brands that connect organizations to the communities they serve. In her free time, Caroline can be found on a mountain top, on a gravel bike, or swimming in the Waterbury Reservoir.

This project offers a crucial opportunity to protect an iconic farm for today....and tomorrow. Won't you help us meet this \$20,000 goal?

Please support our effort to conserve the historic Rawson Farm by writing a check or donating online. Simply note that your contribution is for the Rawson Farm. JULT will include your annual membership with each donation, also.

Deborah Rawson writes, "When the market forces that are fueling Vermont's development have shifted to another region, when the farmland that will cease to be farmed has been converted into a parking lot or a house or anything else that obscures the fact that good farmland---a valuable resource---has been lost, how much will be left of that landscape that has always been synonymous with Vermont?" **Help protect what is possible. Please send your tax-deductible contribution today!**



Caroline Klosowski

SEASONAL CHANGES

Summer relinquishes its sultry heat in fits and starts, slowly advancing to the cooler period of autumn. We know this familiar rhythm of transition, having lived it many times before. The entire countryside signals this change by adding color wherever possible. We see the bright blue of asters, the deep yellow of goldenrod, and the first vibrant maple leaf lying on the trail. The hot reds and oranges that overwhelm the wooded hillsides are fleeting. Autumn is the briefest of seasons, and so there is much to achieve in these few months, and nature seems to know it. Wherever you look, there is a rush of color. Now the air has a crisp chill to it and chores await....for winter is coming. Summer's ease is over, and life feels more intense. The sweet smell of wood smoke mixes with the tangy aroma of damp leaves. Precision squadrons of noisy Canada geese signal their migration south. How fortunate we all are to have this flamboyant season at our doorstep to enjoy.

MILLS RIVERSIDE PARK'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

On August 16, 2025, the Jericho Underhill Park District, along with JULT, celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Mills Riverside Park. JULT purchased and conserved this exquisite land on July 14, 1999, with the support of Grace Mills and her family and extraordinary community support. Grants were also secured from the Freeman Foundation, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Gannett Foundation, and other sources. Over the years, Mills Riverside Park has become a key natural feature in our community, offering the farmers' market, sports activities, six miles of trails, and opportunities to immerse oneself in our natural environment. Permanently protected, we look forward to many more years of community enjoyment.

LAND STEWARDSHIP AND BEAVERS

Your membership contribution does two things. It allows us to conserve vital land and also manage our protected areas. Both the JULT-owned Wolfrun Natural area (403 acres) and Kikas Valley Farm (361 acres) demand our attention. These properties offer rugged trails for walking, as well as sensitive wildlife habitats. Our responsibilities include paying taxes, removing invasive plants, maintaining small parking areas, replacing signs, and following management plans.

At Kikas Valley Farm, we sought expert advice about beaver habitat and possible conflicts. We asked Allaire Diamond, an ecologist from the Vermont Land Trust,

and Tyler Brown from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife for their advice. A beaver dam was causing water to back up on pasture and agricultural land, and a culvert was blocked. Nearby neighbors were concerned that their houses might be affected. JULT met with the neighbors and Allaire to answer any concerns. We also hired equipment to unplug the culvert with the assurance from Tyler that the beavers would not be refilling it with mud and branches. If they did, a beaver exclusion fence would work. The coexistence of beavers with the human world is important and working. Your membership makes this possible!

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

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Your membership donation allows JULT to continue our land conservation work. Please join us for the first time or renew your membership. This funding supports landowner engagement, community events, land stewardship, and more. We look forward to a busy 2026 with your help. Thank you!

Online membership donations may be made at www.jult.org

THANK YOU!