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Membership Matters!



LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

Spring 2020



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 UPDATE

Underhill voters overwhelmingly approved the expenditure of \$20,000 for the conservation purchase of the Tomasi Meadow at Town Meeting. This support was vital and is helping the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) and the Vermont Land Trust (VLT), reach our \$231,000 objective. Within this \$231,000 goal, \$56,000 needs to be raised privately....and it is. By the time this spring newsletter reaches you, we expect total funding for the Tomasi Meadow to be achieved! The purchase and sale agreement has a closing date of August 30, 2020. The coming months will include the drafting of the conservation easement, title work, baseline documentation (which details the property as it exists now) and other activities.

The Tomasi Meadow offers many opportunities. Besides the iconic view to Casey's Hill, this land is also a productive hayfield. The Tomasi Meadow can also provide perimeter trails for year round recreation and an outdoor classroom for the Underhill Central School. Children sledding on Casey's Hill, often finish their fast rides on the Tomasi Meadow. This cherished property has garnered substantial financial support for its conservation. JULT wants to thank the community for your generous donations. We look forward to celebrating with the Tomasi family, the Vermont Land Trust, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and the community the permanent protection of the Tomasi Meadow later this summer.



A Conservation Reserve Fund for Jericho

Written by Sabina Ernst

At the 2020 Town Meeting, Jericho voters supported initiating a tax to create a Conservation Reserve Fund. Having dedicated and consistent funding year after year gives the town a means to support conservation projects and also gives us the opportunity to apply for outside funding sources, such as grants, to leverage our conservation dollars. The Fund is intended to help landowners establish easements, covenants, etc. In some cases, the Town may purchase an easement or right of way, for example, and compensate the landowner. The fund may also be used to purchase land but that's not its primary purpose.

The Conservation Fund re-establishes a way to compensate landowners, but with a more equitable structure than the defunct tax-stabilization plan which ended in 2015. The Conservation Fund will provide incentives to landowners who help the Town achieve Town goals, such as trail easements, open space and agricultural land preservation, and protecting parts of Jericho's history.

The criteria for conservation projects can be found at the Jericho Town Hall and on the Jericho Town Website (jerichovt.org).



THANK YOU!

We want to thank you for your ongoing membership and steadfast support of JULT. We would not be able to engage with interested landowners and carry out land conservation work without you. We are solely funded through our membership contributions. Besides actively working to promote and facilitate land conservation within our two towns, we also own and manage two large properties. Both the Wolfrun Natural Area and Kikas Valley Farm are enrolled in State Current Use and require updated management plans and stewardship. Your membership is vital and we thank you for it!



Marsh Marigold



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

JULT is dedicated to conserving working landscapes, scenic vistas, important wildlife habitats and community open spaces. We wish to thank our many members that have renewed this year. Without you, we would not be able to achieve our land conservation and stewardship goals. JULT relies entirely on membership funding. If you are not a member, please JOIN us! Together, we can save important land for today...and for tomorrow! Simply fill out the membership form or visit our website at www.jult.org. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!!

Mills Riverside Park will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary on August 8th, 2020! The Jericho Underhill Park District is planning a special community day dedicated to this exceptional park. Many remember the extraordinary effort that the Jericho Underhill Land Trust mounted in 1999 to save this land. Broad community financial support, along with the good wishes of the Mills Family, allowed Mills Riverside Park to happen. August 8th will include an exciting Lantern Parade made up of over 400 school children that will have created lanterns in celebration. This event is sponsored by the Jericho Underhill Park District and the Jericho Underhill Land Trust. Expect more details in the summer JULT newsletter, Facebook and Front Porch Forum.

UPCOMING EVENTS

You Are Invited! Let's enjoy spring!

May 2 Saturday 10:00 a.m. Spring Wildflower Walk with Michele Tulis - Join Michele as she leads us along the lower trails of Mills Riverside Park looking for early spring wildflowers. Besides spotting and identifying, Michele has an in depth knowledge of historic uses and medicinal values. There is no better way to learn and enjoy a spring outing at the park.

May 4 Monday ANNUAL MEETING Underhill Town Hall 6:30 p.m. - For refreshments and 7:00 p.m. for the meeting. Everyone is invited to come join us as we celebrate another wonderful year of land conservation! Besides refreshments and a short business meeting, we are very pleased to have Chittenden County Forester, Ethan Tapper, as our keynote speaker. Ethan will talk about "Forming a Backyard Stewardship Ethic,". This is a presentation that discusses forest and ecosystem management on both a small and large scale. Ethan will seek to illustrate the ecological and historical context in which we make stewardship decisions, and to help landowners both act pragmatically on their land and to understand the broader context for their management.

May 6 and 9th Evergreen's 25th Annual Bird Walk - Wednesday May 6th 6:30 p.m. Deborah Rawson Memorial Library - Well-known local birder, Evergreen Erb, will introduce us to, through slides and taped bird song, the variety of avian species that we may spot at Mills Riverside Park. If not at the park, you may see these birds in your backyard. Evergreen excels at adding story to image which combine to create a very memorable experience.

Saturday, May 9th 7:00 a.m. Yes, It is early but that is when the birds are especially noticeable. Join Evergreen again at Mills Riverside Park for her 25th Annual Bird Walk! There is no better way to welcome spring and the newly arrived warblers than to take a casual stroll with Evergreen. Her knowledge is vast and her love of birds infectious. Please bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Grass will be wet. Stay as long as your schedule allows and all ages are encouraged to join us.



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