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*Membership Matters!*



# LAND TRUST NEWS

Preserving Open Lands In Our Towns

**Summer Newsletter 2022**



## MOBBS FARM .... CONSERVED!

Over 91 percent of Jericho residents voted to conserve the Town-owned Mobbs Farm at Town Meeting Day on March 2, 2021. This overwhelming public support put in motion a lengthy process to protect 232-acres of the 275-acre Mobbs Farm. As with all conservation projects, this property needed to be inventoried for its "conservation values". Of course, Mobbs Farm has plenty! The special qualities of Mobbs include: forestland, wildlife habitats, natural communities, riparian buffers, wetlands, soil productivity, water quality and native flora and fauna.

Also protected is the right for the public to enjoy non-motorized recreation and educational opportunities. The next step to conserving Mobbs farm was to draft a conservation easement. This legal document follows the land in perpetuity and details the important conservation values and how they will be protected. The Vermont Land Trust (VLT) "holds" this easement and is responsible for ensuring that this document is followed with all management decisions.

Beyond the legal aspects of land conservation, there is also the cost. It was determined that \$43,000 was needed to pay for VLT's legal work plus a sizable stewardship fund to monitor Mobbs Farm by VLT in perpetuity. The JULT was responsible for a sizable portion of this cost and we are extremely thankful to the Kusserow Family Fund for contributing \$13,000 towards the conservation of Mobbs. Another \$10,000 came from JULT's reserve

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

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

P.O. Box 80 • Jericho, VT 05465-0080 • 802-899-2693 • [julandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:julandtrust@gmail.com) • [www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org)  
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**We're on the web: [www.jult.org](http://www.jult.org)**

**Remember to "Like" us on**



## MOBBS FARM...Continued

fund for land protection. This support comes from JULT membership contributions! The Vermont Land Trust also helped by providing \$10,000 from a forest grant. Jericho's Conservation Reserve Fund was also used to provide the last \$10,000. This is the FIRST use of this very significant financial resource that Jericho's taxpayers support.

With funding in place, The Town of Jericho and the Vermont Land Trust, along with the Mobbs Committee, worked on the draft conservation easement. On May 12, 2022, the majority of Mobbs Farm was permanently protected. A Town-wide celebration is being planned for this summer. We all have much to be excited about!

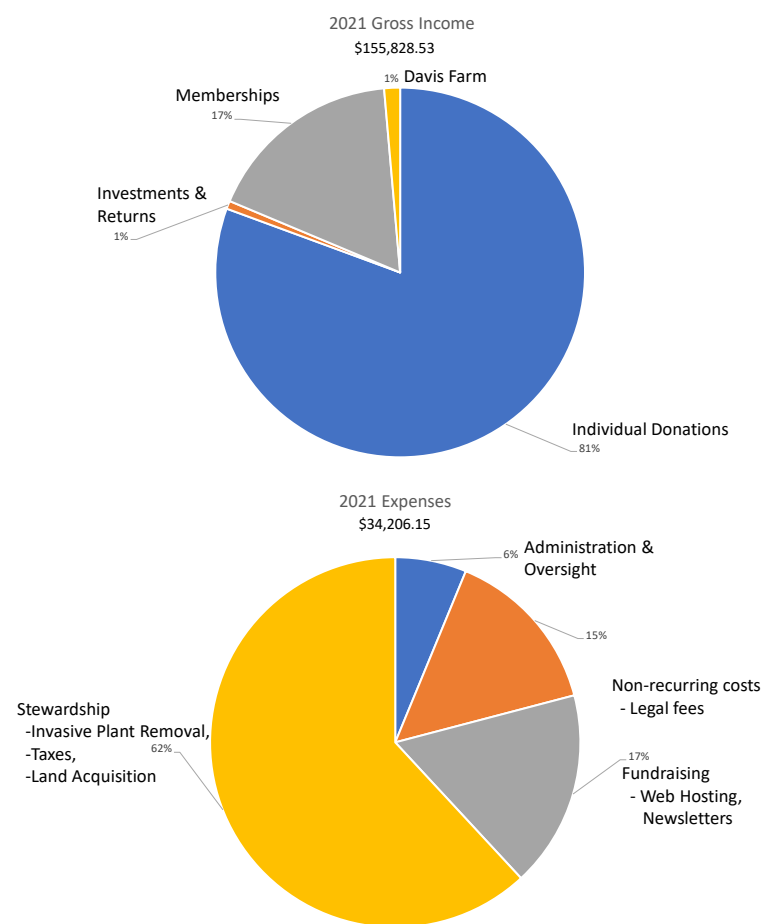
## THANK YOU!

Thanks to members like you, JULT has conserved well over 2000 acres within our community. These properties encompass rare wildlife habitat and ancient cairns (The Wolfrun Natural Area), a traditional sliding hill (Casey's Hill), farmland and forest (Kikas Valley Farm), a community park with multiple wildlife habitats (Mills Riverside Park), and two hayfields (Tomas and Riverside Meadows) and acres of privately owned land, which includes the Barber Farm. The JULT is an all-volunteer, membership based non-profit and your membership contributions have a direct impact on our work. We thank you for every donation and ask that you continue your support. We are including a few pie charts to better explain where your membership dollars go.



## Land Stewardship

Owning land can be expensive. The JULT owns almost 800 acres in two large parcels, the Wolfrun Natural Area and Kikas Valley Farm. We also added the Riverside Meadow recently. Last year, we spent almost \$8,000 to remove invasive Japanese barberry and buckthorn and this effort will continue. Parking areas need to be mowed and snow plowed for public access to our trails. Beavers consistently clog a large culvert at Wolfrun which must be cleaned out. We plan to build an exclusion fence to prevent further obstruction. Taxes must be paid even though they are at a reduced rate due our enrollment in State Current Use. Your membership support helps us with the cost of maintaining these conserved lands and we thank you!



2021 Gross Income (top chart) shows the successful fundraising for Mobbs Farm, Davis Farm, and Riverside Meadows (in blue). 2021 Expenses (bottom pie chart) does not include payment for the land acquisitions (occurs in 2022). The Expenses continue to be primarily land stewardship, with only 6% for administration costs (all volunteer activities).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**You Are Invited!** Please put these dates on your Summer calendar. Also check our website, Facebook page, Instagram, and Front Porch Forum for important JULT updates.

**July 9 FOLLOWING FERNS! Saturday, July 9, 2022 – Ferns and Flowers of Mid-Summer, a Botanical Ramble at Mills Riverside Park, 10 a.m.**

Join UVM botanists and long-time Jericho residents Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington for a casual, all-ages walk to discover what's blooming in the Park at the height of summer. Our leaders will share their knowledge of the Vermont's fern flora, a group of special interest to them, and will teach us how to recognize some common species that grace our Vermont woodlands at this time of year. A splendid time is guaranteed for all!

**Annual Meeting and Celebration August 1, 2022 Mills Riverside Park Pavilion or the Community Center in Jericho, if raining. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Business meeting at 6:30 p.m.**

Come celebrate an extraordinary year of land conservation with us! Refreshments and a half hour social opportunity will begin at 6:00 p.m. Our short business meeting will commence at 6:30 p.m. and be followed by our guest speaker, Craig Newman. Craig is the current Director and co-founder of Outreach for Earth Stewardship (OFES). OFES offers unique educational programs that stimulate the mind and heart with the help of live raptors who serve as wild ambassadors. Founded in 1989, Outreach for Earth Stewardship's (OFES) mission is to strengthen respect and understanding for wildlife. OFES is licensed by the State of Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department to rehabilitate wild birds and have them serve as animal ambassadors if they cannot be released. Craig is a Jericho resident and has been on-call to respond to many avian emergencies locally and beyond.

## Cairn Walk with Abenaki Chief Don Stevens

On April 13th, Chief Don Stevens of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation met with several JULT board members to explore the cairns at the southern end of the Wolfrun Natural Area. We were excited to show him these large stone constructions that have not been explained. They are described as platform cairns that could date to pre-colonial times. Chief Don Stevens thought that they might have been used as food caches and food grinding stations for the Abenaki many years ago. The JULT is planning a fall walk so that all that are interested can join us to investigate these extraordinary stone structures. A date will be selected soon.



Chief Don Stevens



Cairns at the southern end of the Wolfrun Natural Area