



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

Winter 2020



Tomasi Meadow

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. All contributions are tax-deductible.

MAJOR FUNDING FOR THE TOMASI MEADOW!

The Jericho Underhill Land Trust is excited to report that the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) has awarded \$155,000 towards the Town of Underhill's conservation purchase of the Tomasi Meadow. This significant grant funding catapults our conservation efforts forward and greatly reduces our fundraising need. The total cost of a conservation purchase of the Tomasi Meadow by the Town of Underhill is \$231,000. This sum includes the land, a survey, legal work, a stewardship endowment to monitor the land in perpetuity, and all other project expenses. The remaining amount to be raised is \$76,000. There will be a vote at Underhill's Town Meeting to contribute \$20,000 towards this purchase. The Jericho Underhill Land Trust is working with the Vermont Land Trust to raise the remaining \$56,000. Local fundraising is starting now.

Continued on Page 2...



The Tomasi Meadow offers many opportunities. Besides the iconic view to Casey's Hill and Mt. Mansfield, this land is also a productive hayfield. The meadow can 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 this broad expanse of land. In 2005, Casey's Hill was purchased and conserved for the Town of Underhill. **Today, we all have another chance to invest in our community.**

It Can Happen With Your Help!

The conservation purchase of the Tomasi Meadow for the Town of Underhill depends on your help. We need to raise \$56,000 by August 30, 2020. Won't you help preserve this distinctive landscape by making a tax-deductible contribution today?

Please make checks to the Jericho Underhill Land Trust (Tomasi Meadow) and mail to JULT, P.O. Box 80, Jericho, Vermont 05465. Donations can also be made online at www.jult.org. Thank you!

WINTER

We are in the quiet days of winter. Heavy snow muffles most sounds and slows activity. Just leaving the house requires a coat, hat, boots and gloves. Surrounded by cloth protection, we venture out into the frozen landscape. We find bare trees softened by plumes of white, ice-encrusted streams, bright blue skies and brittle cold. Every snowfall creates a new world for us to explore and experience adventure. Familiar landmarks have disappeared, buried beneath a fresh cover of white. On snowshoe, cross-country ski or simply walking, we embrace this quiet time and celebrate the beauty of winter. How fortunate we are to live in a community where winter exploration is at our door.



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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Public Meetings Planned about the Tomasi Meadow • January 21 and February 19th - 7:00 p.m. Underhill Town Hall - The Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) and the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) will co-host two public meetings about the conservation purchase of the Tomasi Meadow for the Town of Underhill. We are eager to share any updates, answer any questions and receive your feedback. Please plan on attending the evening of January 21st or February 19th. Both meetings will be held at the Underhill Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Please contact JULT with any questions.

Sledding Fun at Casey's Hill • February 8 - 9:00a.m. - Join both land trusts for a morning of celebrating winter on Casey's Hill! Hot cocoa will warm us up as we enjoy this traditional winter sport. JULT and VLT will be delighted to update you about our fundraising progress towards the Tomasi Meadow and answer any questions. Casey's Hill was purchased and conserved in 2005 for the community and is owned by the Town of Underhill.



Walking towards the Tomasi Meadow

CREATING A CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND

The Jericho Conservation Commission has been gathering information about creating a Conservation Reserve Fund (CRF). Many of our neighboring towns (Richmond, Bolton, Williston) have this funding mechanism in place to help with the permanent conservation of important farm and forestland. Presently Jericho has a line item in the Town budget that is called "Open Space/Public Use". It receives funding as determined by the Selectboard and is low priority in budget discussions. A Conservation Reserve Fund

would build annually. The Jericho Conservation Commission recommends that the amount put into the fund each year would be based on adding one cent on the tax rate. This would translate to about \$10 per \$100,000 of a property's assessed value per household. Using that rate for the current fiscal year, it would generate about \$67,000. JULT fully supports establishing a Conservation Reserve Fund for the town as this would greatly enhance the land trust's ability to protect important land when funding is needed.

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