

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – April 13, 2026

Board members present: John Koier, Michael Lazorchak, Phyl Newbeck, and Livy Strong

Guest: Julie Riddell

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:01.

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of March 2026 were approved.

2. Financial Report

Our total assets are \$1,505,650 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$99,596 at East Rise Credit Union, \$111,216 in our money market account, \$59,959 in our checking account, \$30,453 in Schwab investments, \$11,878 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$11,289 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In March we took in a whopping \$2.55 in interest. We spent \$1,926 consisting of \$62 for accounting, \$20 for advertising, \$826 for Kikas Valley Farm property taxes, \$632 for Riverside Meadows property taxes, \$85 for subscriptions, and \$293 for Wolfrun Natural Area property taxes.

Livy is planning to move money out of our checking account to our East Rise CD where it will earn a little bit of money.

We will be writing a check for \$18,000 as our contribution to the conservation of the Rawson farm.

3. Membership/Fundraising

Livy talked to a family in Underhill about a grant opportunity from something called the Sherman Fairchild Foundation. Livy sent in a short application form which, if approved, will lead to a longer form. The money would be used as needed for administrative and operation expenses. The amount would be \$50,000.

4. Land Stewardship

Johnn said that on April 20, 21 and 23 the entire edge of the western drainage of the Kikas farmland will be planted to form a fifty-foot-wide riparian buffer zone consisting of native shrubs and a small percentage of white pine and red oak seedlings. Over time, as these plants mature they will shade the stream to cool the water creating better habitat for fish and amphibians. The roots will absorb most of the agricultural related phosphorus keeping it out of

the Winooski River and ultimately Lake Champlain. This project will create much needed habitat for our songbirds and a myriad of other species. This work will all be done by Sun Common volunteers under the direction of Sam and Katie of Friends of The Winooski and The US Fish and Game Department respectively.

On May 18, the wrongfully mowed riparian buffer that was planted two years ago along the stream through the Ten Acre Pasture with a federal grant will be replanted by the Intervale Center and their planting crew. The money for replacement seedlings and labor has been collected from our neighbor who is responsible for the damage. The grants supervisory division of the FDA seems to be happy with our responsive actions taken to correct this “noncompliance”.

John has had some conversations with homeowners in the Wingate development who are concerned with losing their view of the farm fields due to the riparian planting. John was able to reassure them that it was unlikely to happen due to the small height of the majority of the species being planted. Livy and John were only able to meet with two of the homeowners despite flyers being placed in every mailbox on Tyler Place.

Mills Riverside Park will also have a planting day on May 22, and we will see if we can get volunteers from Mount Mansfield Union High School who need service credits. Livy thanked Michael for having recruited UVM students who have done work in the park which has led to renewed interest. We are expecting as many as 30 students. Trout Unlimited will also be involved.

5. Land Project

We're on track for closing on the Jericho part of the Rawson farm either later this month or in May.

6. Events

The newsletter listed our upcoming events. May 2 will be our spring wildflower walk at 2 pm at Mills Riverside Park led by Michele Tulis. A retired veterinarian, she is part of an organization that does free wellness checks on cats, dogs, and other small animals which is why we are having the unusual afternoon start.

May 7 is our annual meeting at the Jericho Community Center. Michael is the only person who is up for a reelection vote. Livy asked board members to arrive at 6 pm to set up chairs and to bring some snacks. There will be half an hour of socialization at 6:30, a short meeting, and then a presentation by Craig Newman who will bring some of his avian ambassadors including a turkey vulture who has been known to throw up at some of these events.

On May 16th Sabina and Evergreen Erb will lead a bird walk at 7 am at Mills Riverside Park.

7. Publicity

Sabina will be sending information about our events via MailChimp and we will put the information on Front Proch Forum, as well.

Phyl noted that she is still waiting for board bios but has stopped holding her breath.

8. Any other business

Julie worries about people stepping on the plantings along the Browns River and hopes there will be some kind of flagging to make sure that doesn't happen. Livy assured her that there will be snow fences and signs created by UVM students to explain what we're doing and why. There will be eight rolls of snow fencing and cedar post.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30

Respectfully submitted,
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary

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