

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – May 6, 2024

Board members present: John Connell, Sabina Ernst, John Koier, Michael Lazorchak, Phyl Newbeck, Lisa Paone, and Livy Strong

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:00.

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of March 2024 were approved.

2. Financial report

Lisa provided the financial report prior to the meeting. Our total assets are \$1,381,761 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$5,092 (one-year term) and \$88,864 (two-year term) at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,206 in our money market account, \$39,974 in our checking account, \$28,932 in Schwab investments, \$11,615 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$9,574 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In April we took in \$11,042 in memberships thanks to one \$10,000 donation. We spent \$3,493 consisting of \$3,027 in legal expenses, \$45 in office expenses, \$30 for subscriptions, \$187 for accounting, \$84 for renewal of our post office box, \$687 for printing, \$259 for web hosting, and \$200 for Wolfrun Natural Area.

3. Land Stewardship

John Koier said that a fair amount of planting was done at Kikas Valley Farm on April 22. There were 425 stems which were planted on 1.75 acres. Sabina thinks we need to put in fencing even though we don't know if we will have sheep or cows because deer also do damage. Herbaceous weed control will be used within the fenced-in area in May/June and August/September. They will also be installing a stream crossing for animals which will cost \$28,000. This is being done through Phil Wilson and Ben Gabos of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Livy, John Koier and Sabina helped with the work.

Sabina also applied for that grant for her property. She gave the government a 15-year lease and they are planting trees along the same streambed. This is the same situation that we have at the Kikas Valley meadow.

Livy has called Norma Blades to ask whether she will be bringing cows, but she has not responded, and the consensus is that she probably will not be bringing them. CREP might provide fencing if we can get other animals to graze.

John Koier said that we updated the Kikas Valley Farm management plan to include bird habitat which may make it easier for us to get another grant through CREP. We are scheduled to do some timber stand improvement and the grant would pay the bulk of it. Sabina said if that doesn't come through, we can try to get a grant through Cornell University.

Livy walked the perimeter of the ag field at Kikas Valley with Phil Wilson and talked about buffers and appropriate vegetation. She sent an email to Paul Mazza to let him know what we're doing and where he is out of compliance. Livy asked them to put a letter together to give to Paul but that hasn't arrived yet.

#### 4. Events

Our spring wildflower walk attracted 21 people. Livy said it was a beautiful day and most of the wildflowers were still in bloom. Everyone stayed for the whole event. This coming Saturday is our bird walk which starts at 7 am. Sabina will help lead it with Jason Crook. Evergreen Erb will be doing a stationary birding experience with both sighting and listening. Livy will ask Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington to do a fern walk and Liz Thompson to do a fall wildflower walk. Sabina also offered to do a fall bird walk.

#### 5. Publicity

We can have one day a month at the Farmers' Market on the second Thursday of each month. John Koier has a tent that we can use. Lisa will help in June and Sabina will help in September. Livy is committed to doing some website updates. She is struggling with the summer newsletter.

#### 6. Community news

Jericho is holding a series of meetings about community wastewater. Sabina went to one of them and will probably go to another. This is considered a 60% report which will be augmented with community input for the Select Board to decide where they want to have a system. Sabina noted that this is important because it would allow for concentrated development in the village centers.

#### 7. Any other business

John Koier said they will be planting potatoes on May 19. It will be a 30x30 plot which has already been tilled at the Chamberlin's farm.

Our next meeting will be June 3

The meeting concluded at 7:37

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary