

JULT Annual Meeting – November 11, 2024  
Jericho Community Center

Livy Strong called the meeting to order at 7:03.

Members present: Jenifer Andrews, Eric Bishop, Barb and Bruce Brokland, Marcelite Bucheit, Bill Butler, John and Polly Connell, Anne Cramer, Patrick Crannel, Allaire and Phoebe Diamond, Barbara Frankowski, Traudl Frey, Fran and Dave Ganter, Sue Grab, Philip Hampson, Susan Harritt, Andrea and Terry Hook, Mary Kintner, John and Barbie Koier, Michael Lazorchak, Karen McKnight, Bill and Catherine McMains, Penny Miller, Louanne Neilsen, Grace Nelson, Phyl Newbeck, Lisa and Eddie Paone, Cathy Paris, Chris and Reed Sims, Sheldon Smith, Livy and Loren Strong, and Randy Trover.

Livy introduced the JULT Board members. Vice Chair John Koier, Treasurer Lisa Paone, Secretary Phyl Newbeck, Michael Lazorchak, John Connell, and Sabina Ernst.

Livy noted that 26 years ago, members of the Board of Directors of JULT convened at the Community Center to talk about the Mills Property. That was our first project since the 1991 conservation of the Old Mill Park. Since that time, we've been extremely busy. We've conserved a diverse wildlife habitat called Wolfrun Natural Area and several parcels of farmland including Barber Farm, the Farm Upstream, the Davis Farm, and Kikas Valley Farm. We have also conserved some beautiful scenic recreation areas like Casy's Hill, Tomasi Meadow, and Mobbs Farm. Livy stressed that we could not do this work without our members and a supportive community. For 2025 we have a big project which we're not ready to talk about, but we look forward to the continuation of membership support since we do not receive federal, state, or municipal funding.

Livy added that JULT helps landowners with upfront costs including appraisals and surveys. In addition, we own some land on which we pay taxes and expend money to ensure that the land is available for public use.

Lisa provided a brief summary of our finances to date for 2024. We have taken in almost \$35,000 in membership donations and have some additional dividend money as a result of our investments. Subtracting our expenses, which include monies for accounting, web hosting, property taxes, membership dues, subscriptions, insurance, printing, mailing, and legal fees, our net income is \$20,000.

John Koier provided a land stewardship report. It's been a busy year. We are the owners and stewards of close to 800 acres. We received grant money from the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service for two stewardship projects at Kikas Valley Farm. One project involved the removal of 60 acres of invasive barberry, buckthorn, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle. The second project involves 20 acres of timber stand improvement with an emphasis on wildlife and bird habitat and will be completed this winter.

In April and July, woody stream buffers were planted along the stream that borders the Kikas Valley Farm fields and crosses the ten-acre pasture along Skunk Hollow Road at no cost to our

members thanks to volunteers, the Vermont Department of Agriculture, the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, and the Friends of the Winooski River.

John also thanked Randi Roy, a trained mapping volunteer, who created a new Kikas Valley Farm trail map which is displayed in the kiosk donated by the Jericho Trails Committee. We've been dealing with beaver activity on all properties. Our stance has always been peaceful coexistence with this keystone species and while maintaining critical access to our property.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, John Connell, Sabina Ernst, John Koier, Livy Strong, and Phyl Newbeck were reelected to three-year terms on the JULT Board.

Livy introduced Allaire Diamond, Ecology and Restoration Program Director for the Vermont Land Trust and member of the Jericho Conservation Commission, who gave a presentation entitled "Beavers and What They Can Teach Us."