

Jericho Underhill Land Trust monthly meeting – February 3, 2024

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

Guest: Sheryl Leslie

Livy called the meeting to order at 7:03.

1. Review of minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of January 2025 were approved.

2. Financial report

Our total assets are \$1,407,548 consisting of \$1,187,502 in fixed assets, \$93,996 at New England Federal Credit Union, \$11,208 in our money market account, \$63,113 in our checking account, \$29,720 in Schwab investments, \$11,702 at the Vermont Community Loan Fund and \$10,305 at the Vermont Community Foundation.

In January we took in \$12,393, in memberships. We spent \$82, of which \$45 was for administrative expenses and \$37 was for subscriptions.

Sheryl said we need a W9 form from a law firm we've used, and Michael volunteered to get that.

3. Membership/fundraising

Lisa said January was slower than December. We had \$885 in donations.

4. Land stewardship

John said we had a 25-acre Timber Stand Improvement project at Kikas Valley Farm. He contacted the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps but has been frustrated by communication with them and the extent of the cost. VYCC would charge \$7,500 a week and they believe it would take four weeks at a cost far exceeding the USDA money we will be getting. Will Dunklee can do the whole thing for slightly over \$13,000 and he would also like to put in some bridges to make it easier to reach. Our forester will have to mark the acreage which will take a few more days. John strongly believes in the work of the VYCC, but he will hire Will for the work.

Sabina got an email from Friends of the Winooski River offering to do some stream-side planting which would be a continuation of the work we did on the former cow pasture adjacent to Kikas Valley Farm. The idea is to continue upstream. They asked if a group of volunteers from Sun Common could come for a day of planting. That would take place on May 1 or 2 from 8 am to 1 pm and they would carpool. If there is anything left over, we can organize our own volunteers, but they may be able to finish the project.

Livy will follow up with the state for recommendations on how to deal with our beaver problem.

Livy has been working with seven UVM students and their advisor. They are planning on coming to Mills Riverside Park on February 12 to look at the river erosion.

5.      Publicity

There will be a spring newsletter. Livy and Sabina will go through the website and see if we need to add updates and/or change photos.

6.      Events

Evergreen Erb is willing to do her annual bird walk, probably the second week of May. Cathy Paris and Dave Barrington would like to lead a winter tree walk at either Mobbs or Mills Riverside Park in March. We are always looking for new ideas.

7.      Community news

Jericho held Town Meeting Reimagined which reviewed the town budget. Sabina is working with the Planning Commission and the CCRPC on the future land use map.

John and John delivered several birdhouses to the Vermont Audubon Society. They hold auctions to raise money for their programs.

8.      By- law review

John suggested changing the maximum number of board members. Lisa said there is nothing listed on who is in charge of handling donations and membership, but the board decided that it was probably best to only list four positions in the by-laws. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board decided to lower the maximum number of board members from eleven to nine.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyl Newbeck, JULT Secretary