

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

June 25, 2019

PRESENT: Marilyn Grant, *Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Cynthia Johnson, Paul Wilcox and Mary Gibbons, *Trustees*. Harvey Buford, *Conservation Commission*.

ABSENT: Sarah Windsor, *Vice-Chair*, Ed Wood, *Trustee*.

- A. Call to order** at 7:06 by Grant with 5 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.
- B. Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of May 28, 2019 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and approved as well as placing Executive minutes under seal, passed unanimously.
- C. Accounting of funds:** Citizens as of May 31, \$5,977, Town Stewardship, \$6,781.

D. Reports

Chair:

Strategic Plan F/HLT and HLT: Anderson and Grant attended RI Foundation Board and Fundraising meeting at SK Land Trust Barn, having a strategic plan was stressed. Anderson will research and will include in annual meeting agenda in November.

URI Request: Canonchet Preserve and Diamond Hill Swamp, gave permission for surveillance plots for emerald ash borer, they want to perhaps do more work including cutting and girdling down of several trees, and perhaps biological control release. Baker made a motion, seconded by Gibbons, to approve URI request. Passed unanimously.

Walking trail at Palumbo/Southern Sky Renewal solar farm completed. 15' wide along property line off Route 91. Solar installation has begun. Grant, Wood, Anderson, Capalbo, and Southern Sky staff including principal, Ralph Palumbo walked site. Trail should be very durable. Parking lot of 5 spaces being used by construction trailer right now. Trail leads from parking lot to Grills Preserve.

Friends of the HLT:

Garden Party June 1: Event was successful and enjoyable, thanks were expressed to Chris Anderson and the Friends for their hard work and effort.

Anniversary celebration in 2020: HLT and Hopkinton Historical Association are both 20 years old. Grant reported that Anderson talked about a town wide event, perhaps at Crandall Field, has spoken to Mary Sawyer for pre-planning.

Land Management and Stewardship:

- **Trail Camera Update:** Wilcox retrieved camera, lots of photos, none of trespassers. Very sensitive to wind and branches. Will put it back up in different location.
- **Expansion of Depot Square/Brushy Brook Trail update:** Grant reported wetlands application ready for submittal, just needs signatures from contractors.

- **Crown Farm Preserve planning:** Johnson, Windsor, Grant , Buford and Rick Prescott from HHA met with Doyle on site on Monday showed that design was put in the wrong place due to incorrect survey. Doyle is resurveying and will update plans. Regarding triangular property in Town ownership (Map 5 Lot 108), Grant consulted with Landolfi which led to McCoy working with Town Solicitor McAllister to find mechanism for transfer of property to HLT, possible Quit Claim Deed.
- **Kenyon Crossroad Trail repair:** Buford spoke with Peter Jensen with regard to helical piles for trail, rough estimate of 11 pairs with 16' spans. Ballpark cost \$450/piling, plus boardwalk materials with volunteer installation for roughly \$10,000.
- **GWS Encroachment:** Buford discovered encroachment, mowed path on edge of field to camping area on our property, leading to Rhodes property. Grant filed police report, Hopkinton Police followed up, Rhodes apologized, promised never to do it again. We had sent them a certified letter in 2013 regarding same encroachment. In the meantime, Gary Marsh has disked fields and is ready to plant.

Funding and Grants: Budget FY 19/20: Hopkinton Budget referendum failed, reverting back to last years budget, may get either 10 or 15K, unclear at this point.

- E. Old Business:** HLT approved \$200 for trail work in April for Harvey Buford to layout trails for us at Crowne Farm Preserve, for 8 hours of work. Buford reported he actually put in 16 hours, or \$400. Wilcox made a motion, seconded by Gibbons, to approve an additional \$200 for the additional 8 hours of work. Passed unanimously.
- F. New Business:** Grills Preserve parking upgrade:
Johnson reported that quotes were received for work/materials: David Benn \$1500 plus materials, Russ Tuthill of Sunset Design \$1600, plus approximately \$3000 for gravel. Grant inquired through Brian Russo if we could use Town's contractors for gravel, he is inquiring of Public Services department. Grant will approach Anderson to see if Friends have property maintenance funds available.
- G. Public Forum:** Buford reported that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Certified Local Government grant to Hopkinton for Manitou Hassannash Preserve is ready for bid solicitation. Buford and Rick Prescott have worked with Paul Loether, State Historic Preservation Officer to draft the RFQ. The Federal funding is \$7000 and existing local matches are \$1900 including \$1200 previously approved by HLT. There are 3 phases to get to the National Register of Historic Places. The RFQ is for Phase 1 Historic Survey and Inventory. Next will be Phase 2 Evaluation and Phase 3 Write the Nomination to National Register. Loether has suggested 2 ea 1-acre concentrated study areas using ground or aerial LiDAR imagery. The rough budget for this is \$4000. The current Phase 1 budget cannot cover this cost and complete the consultant's work. The Historic District Commission requests HLT fund \$2000 of this LiDAR work and they will seek the balance elsewhere with New England Antiquities Research Association being the first candidate. The LiDAR work will be done after leaf drop in the Fall. No consensus was reached and will be discussed further at next meeting.
- H. Executive Session** [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. At 8:28 PM, Wilcox moved that we go into executive session, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5), to discuss potential land acquisitions. Johnson seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Return from Executive Session at 8:50 PM

I. Adjourn 8:51 PM

Respectfully submitted
Carol Baker, Secretary