

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2020

PRESENT: Marilyn Grant, *Chair*, Sarah Windsor, *Vice- Chair*, Mary Gibbons, Ed Wood and Cyndy Johnson, *Trustees*. Harvey Buford, *Hopkinton Conservation Commission*, Tom Thompson, *Associate Trustee*

ABSENT: Carol Baker, *Secretary*

Per the Hopkinton Town Council, and due to the COVID-19 virus, this MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY via Zoom.

- A. Call to order** at 7:10 by Grant with 5 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.
- B. Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of June 23, 2020 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and approved, passed unanimously, including sealing of Executive Minutes.
- C. Accounting of funds:** Citizen's \$21,056; Webster \$665,676.

D. Reports

Chair:

Trustee appointment: Tom Thompson has been interviewed by the Town Council for current trustee vacancy on the Land Trust.

Meeting schedule for summer: August 25, September 22, October 27. Annual meeting to be scheduled in November, probably the first Tuesday, November 3.

Grant also reported we should have received an email from the RI Secretary of State office containing a link to a document detailing updated guidelines for holding meetings by video conferencing (28 pages long).

Subcommittees:

Advocacy:

Status of subcommittee with Johnson gave update on plans before PB. On August 5 the PB is meeting to discuss 2 solar projects, Revity Group on Frontier Road and Dower Property on 310 Main St. (Map 7 lot 62-62A-63). Johnson and Windsor will meet to talk about letter to bring to meetings.

Policy: develop policy re: bicycles on LT property. Gibbons offered to make a few phone calls.

Friends:

Trail work: Small work parties of 5 have been doing some work at Crown Farm Preserve.

Events: Concerts are being cancelled for July and August, due to Covid; Crown Farm public event on August 30 canceled/postponed

Land Management and Stewardship:

Crown Farm Preserve parking –parking, trail work, gates (Harvey)

Kiosk done, not maps or poster, entry sign in the works.

Depot Square/Brushy Brook Trail update:

As reported last month, DEM Permit has been approved. Trail crew to start week of Sept. 21. Gina Fuller or other Southern RI Conservation district will be supervising and reporting to RIDEM (cost is \$50/hr, 2h minimum, 1x month). Mtg with Hoxsie for plantings consultant. An account will be set up for potential purchase of plantings at garden store by Johnson. Must replant with native plants: swamp maple, sweet pepper bush, etc. Grant is looking for housing for 4, probably a cabin. CJ Doyle to give calculated estimate of what is needed for excavation, will need to have stone, dust

hauled in.

Mechanic St. shed: security issues - motion sensor lights installed. Thompson looking for best site to put lights, goal is not to have lights go on with road traffic

Grills Preserve: Forestry Management moving ahead.

The access agreement has been signed by HLT and Reivity, which includes a provision for 24 hours' notice before starting work.

Buford working on new kiosk at Solar Farm parking lot access

Invasive (Tree of Heaven) removal plan for interior field (Thompson will take care of)

Grills Wildlife Sanctuary: Buford will take care of tree down on East Loop down

Several "Dawn to Dusk" signs will be made to be placed at different trailheads on this property as well as Grills Preserve.

Encroachment issue by Rhodes: letter sent by lawyer 2013. Discussion ensued on best way to proceed. Grant to meet with Thompson and Buford the beginning of September.

Funding and Grants: Grant reported that RIDEM Open Space Grant announcements are expected later this week or early next.

E. Old Business: N/A

F. New Business: NEARA Property access

Buford reported that the New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA) is currently working on a list of sites to sample for Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating purposes in the Northeast, probably in September, and Manitou Hassannah Preserve is one candidate. They will have a sign-off form and if taking samples has already been approved, Grant, as chair, can then sign the form. NEARA will pay all expenses. All agreed this sounded like a worthwhile project to participate in. Windsor made a motion, seconded by Gibbons to NEARA authorize to take samples at stone structures on Hopkinton Land Trust properties for Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating purposes up until March 31, 2021. Results of any laboratory analyses will be shared with the Hopkinton Land Trust. Passed unanimously.

G. Public Forum: None

H. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. At 8:13 PM, Johnson moved that we go into executive session, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5), to discuss potential land acquisitions. Windsor seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Reconvene in Open Session at 8:25 PM

Motion to seal the minutes of Executive Session: Gibbons made a motion to seal the Executive Minutes, seconded by Windsor. Passed unanimously.

I. Adjourn 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted
Mary Gibbons, Trustee