

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2020

PRESENT: Marilyn Grant, *Chair*, Sarah Windsor, *Vice- Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Mary Gibbons, Tom Thompson and Cyndy Johnson, *Trustees*. Harvey Buford, *Hopkinton Conservation Commission*

ABSENT: None

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

- A. Roll to order** at 7:02 by Grant with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.
- B. Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of October 27, 2020 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and approved, passed unanimously, including sealing of Executive Minutes.

C. Accounting of funds: Citizen's \$30,473; Webster \$665,867

D. Reports

Chair:

Meeting schedule:

- One meeting December 15, January 26, move annual meeting to sometime in early 2021.
- Trustee Vacancy: Opening still exists for a new trustee, discussion ensued as to how we can be more proactive and spread the word to potential interested citizens.
- RFP for professional Services: Baker volunteered to research Richmond Land Trust RFQ and reach out to town staff for clarification.

Subcommittees:

Advocacy: Status of subcommittee; update on plans before the Planning Board

- Comolli plan was approved by Town Council, C&O HLT for Unit 2. Discussion ensued with regards to details of CE
- Fairview Ave: Buford reported on a site visit hosted by the developer, Joe Catelli, with representative of the by HCC and HLT on this proposed subdivision, before the Planning Board, AP 18 Lot 7K, which includes striking natural features, and Witch Rocks, a landscape well known to the community as a Native American spiritual area. Witch Rocks is currently heavily visited by the public, evidenced by well-worn walking and ATV trails. The Hopkinton Conservation Commission (HCC) voted on November 12, 2020, to authorize Buford to expand upon the following comments and suggestions: *"That we (the HCC) support the cluster development concept for this project, and we support the preservation of the area around Witches Rock with an easement or agreement with the Hopkinton Land Trust to provide public access to this geographic feature with minimal impacts on the residents of the development."* Baker made a motion to support the HCC's work on providing public access to this valuable landscape, which was seconded by Johnson, passed unanimously.

Policy: Property vandalism response:

Grant shared an email of new reports of serious damage to Pelloni Preserve signage. We need policy/procedure for reporting and dealing with encroachments and

vandalism. Gibbons and Thompson will reach out to RI Land Trust Council to look for guidance / help with this. Buford reported we have additional signage for posting property boundaries.

Friends/HLT: Fundraising letter and brochure: Mailing went out to about 100 folks, to support additional monies needed for Depot Square project, to supplement/match Ed Wood's donation.

Land Mgmt and Stewardship:

Crown Farm Preserve update:

Gibbons bought 500 new boundary signs, 6" x 6" yellow plastic for posting

Depot Square/Brushy Brook Trail update:

Grant reported that the projects nearing completion. There have been reports of the public already using the trails, which Jensen said is not optimum as the trails need to cure. HLT members and their spouses (Grant, Johnson and Gibbons) have been working over the past week to install fencing to protect new trails. Grant and Anderson will be meeting with Jensen on site tomorrow afternoon to review project status. Grant also reported we obtained the building permit for dock, and sent a letter to the Town Council requesting waiver for fees of over \$1,000 for building permit.

Grills Preserve:

Forestry Management Project: Firewood is being removed by contractor.

Invasive removal plan for interior field: MOU with Marsh's signed by both parties. Will begin field work this winter

Grills Wildlife Sanctuary:

Encroachment issue by Rhodes / Ashaway Rd

Still encroachment issues, riverbank and extended clearing from back yard on Rte 216. It is unclear who is responsible for the riverbank encroachment.

Discussion ensued regarding how to deal with this continuing, including DEM should be notified as they have easement and this is a clear wetland violation. A site walk is planned for this weekend to review damage/encroachment.

Kenyon Crossroads: Beaver Flood trail

We are still hoping that Peter Jensen will have a chance to look at this section of trail that to see about putting in helical piles but Depot Square project takes precedence.

Funding and Grants: Need to start budget work in January.

E. Old Business: None

F. New Business: Grant reported that the RI Land Trust Council dues of \$200 are up for renewal. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Gibbons to pay annual membership fee, passed unanimously.

G. Public Forum: None

H. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. At 8:28 PM, Thompson moved that we go into executive session, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5), to discuss potential land acquisitions. Gibbons seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Reconvene in Open Session at 8:32 PM

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

I. **Adjourn** 8:33 PM

Respectfully submitted
Carol Baker, Secretary