

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

December 15, 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*. Bob Marvel, *Hopkinton Town Council liaison*.

ABSENT: None

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

A. Call to order at 7:05 by Grant with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

B. Approval of previous meeting minutes: Minutes of November 17, 2020 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and approved, passed unanimously, including sealing of Executive Minutes.

C. Accounting of funds: Citizen's \$29,141; Webster \$665,903.

D. Reports

Chair:

Meeting schedule: January 12, January 26

Welcomed: Robert Marvel as Town Council liaison to HLT

Trustee Vacancy: Grant has been following up on potential applicants.

Town Council will be renewing Campground licenses on January 4 council meeting and we are abutters.

Survey for James property: Baker waiting to hear back from Town staff regarding RFQ for professional services.

Subcommittees:

Advocacy: Update on plans before the Planning Board

- Comolli Solar Project: Johnson has prepared a letter, with guidance from Buford, to the Planning Board, with concerns we have with regard to the conservation easement granted to HLT for Unit 2, to be discussed with developers. Our concerns include clarification regarding HLT access from Chase Hill Road to condo roads, eventual decommissioning of the property, including land transfer and reforestation plans and transfer of the easement before the project goes on line.
- Fairview Plan: Windsor reported she reached out to project developer Catelli, who was hesitant to agree with HLT acquisition of fee simple open space at Fairview Estates per Buford's proposal. Windsor suggested that Buford reach out to Catelli directly to discuss further. Buford suggested we engage the Planning Board directly with our suggestions to get them codified in Planning Board conditions of approval. Baker made a motion, to authorize subcommittee to work with Buford and the Planning Board during project discussions. Seconded by Gibbons. Passed unanimously.

Policy: Property vandalism response:

Thompson reported on research done with Gibbons and with RILTC / Rupert Friday with regard to other Land Trusts in the state regarding ordinances in place for trespass/vandalism enforcement. Thompson feels he can put

together a draft ordinance but wants additional from Town Council, Chief Palmer and Town solicitor. Thompson feels it will be a challenge in the next year of 2 getting these in place, but will over time we should be able to get enforcement in place.

Friends/HLT: Update on Fundraising for Brush Brook Trail:

Mailing went out to about 100 folks, to support additional monies needed for Depot Square project, to supplement/match Ed Wood's donation. Currently raised over \$3,000 of \$10,000 goal.

Develop a list for late winter/spring project: Will talk about below.

Land Mgmt and Stewardship:

Depot Square/Brushy Brook Trail update:

Work is complete, boardwalk and deck complete and are beautiful. But erosion and huge storm created major damage. Jensen has come up with a plan for rerouting the trail, can come back in spring. No price estimate yet. He has sent us a bill to date, we have funds left over. Question as to whether we need to apply for a grant.

Building permit fee (\$1020) waiver granted from Town Council
Contractor recommends closing access until spring

Grills Preserve:

Forestry Management Project: ROW clearing done to allow for trail development connection to established trail. Rough clearing done, finer clearing work needs to be done, early 2021 project.

Grills Wildlife Sanctuary:

Encroachment issue by Rhodes / Ashaway Rd

- Riverbank damage reported to DEM Office of Compliance and Inspection. Johnson, Grant, Thompson and Windsor walked property, had a friendly chat with neighbor Ed James regarding problem.
- Rhodes encroachment still a problem, expanded backyard into our property. Continue their encroachment including mowing trails. Baker will georeferenced current Crossman Engineering plans to get corner xy coordinates from stone wall.

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: RIDEM trail grant looking for large projects due January 28, \$25 – \$100K.

E. Old Business: None

F. New Business: None

G. Public Forum: None

H. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. At 8:18 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