

**HOPKINTON LAND TRUST**  
**TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**August 16, 2021 - Crandall House**

**PRESENT:** Marilyn Grant, *Chair*, Sarah Windsor, *Vice-Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Tom Thompson and Cyndy Johnson, *Trustees*. Harvey Buford, George Comolli, *public*.

**ABSENT:** Mary Gibbons, Jason Parent, *Trustees*

**A. Call to order** at 7:04 by Grant with 5 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

**B. Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of July 26, 2021 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and several minor corrections were made. Baker made a motion to approve updated minutes and to seal the Executive minutes, which was seconded by Windsor. Motion passed unanimously.

Baker made a motion to move agenda item under Subcommittees: Advocacy regarding Comolli to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate a member of the public. Seconded by Windsor, passed unanimously.

Comolli: George Comolli, property owner reviewed project status of the approved Solar array, was a former junkyard with minimal cleanup completed. 7.83 ac solar, 37 ac total. Comolli would like our input on where we would like to put some trails as they accomplish needed clearing. Site walk on Monday, September 7 at 10 AM to review property and to discuss further.

Comolli leaves at 7:25

**C. Old Business:**

1. Chair and Member Reports:
  - i. Meeting Schedule: September 13, if needed, September 27, October 25, November 22
  - ii. Annual Meeting: November 8, tentative
  - iii. Dropbox Access Issue: Anderson made some adjustments, access is now available for trustees.
2. Budget and Funding Update: Grant reported the balances as of the end of July are Citizens \$17,842 (no real estate transfer tax monies yet) and Webster \$666,167.
3. Subcommittees:
  - i. Advocacy – Update on Plans before the Planning Board:
    1. Comolli: Moved to beginning of meeting
  - ii. Policy – Chapter 20 Traffic and Motor Vehicles to add Article IV relating to the use of recreational vehicles, introduced and sponsored by Councilor Marvel. Hearing on Town Council agenda for Tuesday Sept 7.
4. Friends/HLT: Annual meeting September 27, Music in the Valley cancelled
5. Land Mgmt and Stewardship
  - i. Crown Farm Preserve: Trail head clearing (invasive plants), trail clearing and gate installation projects. Grant spoke with Interim Town Manager Rosso, we need not a Request for Proposals (RFP) but a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), to find one vendor to do maintenance work on many properties for a set period of time. Discussion ensued.

Grant will attempt a draft RFQ, contract for projects for next 3 years as budget allows and associated small jobs for equipment and operator.

- ii. Depot Square: Grant reported kayak is still there. Anderson left note on kayak, must be removed.
- iii. Grills Preserve: Burn clearing, agricultural field project. Thompson reported he has written a letter to fire chief, and as not yet received a response. We are hoping to get piles burnt by this fall. Thompson also reported he has heard from Lucas Marsh with regards to status of agricultural fields, will be starting project soon.
- iv. Pelloni Preserve: Boundary marking using computerized mapping; set work date? Baker will get equipment from Grant to review. Work party tentatively for 9/18, to mark boundaries.
- v. James: Forest Management Plan: Grant reported she and Thompson are meeting with Doug James tomorrow to discuss firewood removal. Baker reported she hasn't been out to finish proof of survey but will in the next week or so.

**D. New Business:** Request from New England Antiquities Research Assoc.: funding assistance for Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating for sample from Crown Farm Preserve, \$500. Baker made a motion to approve donation of \$500 to NEARA to assist dating of sample from Crown Farm Preserve, Seconded by Thompson. Approved unanimously.

**E. Public Forum/Trustees Forum:**

1. Public Forum: Buford reported that there will be a gathering of watercraft to follow the Lower Pawcatuck Quad-Town Kayak/Canoe trail on September 19, from Potter Hill Rd to Westerly, picking up kayakers along the way. Produced in cooperation with the Westerly, North Stonington and Hopkinton Conversion Commissions, and the Stonington Economic Development Commission. All are welcome to participate.

**F. Executive Session:** If needed [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)].

At 8:46 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, and to allow Buford to attend due to Buford's unique understanding and previous research performed regarding a specific property to be discussed. Johnson seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Reconvene in Open Session at 8:53 PM

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

**I. Adjourn** 8:54 PM

Respectfully submitted  
Carol Baker, Secretary