

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

June 22, 2021

PRESENT: Marilyn Grant, *Chair*, Sarah Windsor, *Vice-Chair*, Mary Gibbons, Jason Parent and Cyndy Johnson, *Trustees*. Bob Marvel, *Hopkinton Town Council liaison*, Elaine Calderone, *Public*, Jeffrey Frenette, *Hopkinton GIS/IT*

ABSENT: Carol Baker, *Secretary*

Tom Thompson, *Trustee*, joined meeting at 7:18 PM

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

A. **Call to order** at 7:08 PM by Grant with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

B. **Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of April 27, 2021 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and approved with minor corrections. Johnson made a motion to approve minutes, seconded by Windsor, passed unanimously, including sealing of Executive Minutes. There was no May meeting.

C. **Accounting of funds:** Citizen's \$1137 as of 5/31/21. There have since been expenses and balance is \$280, with inadequate funds to pay C. Anderson. She has said she will wait until July. Revenue of \$20,000 is expected from Revery at end of June. Websters \$666,072.

D. Reports

Chair:

Meeting schedule: After discussion, meeting will return to Mondays in July (Windsor's choral practice will be on Tuesdays) July 26, August 30 (Grant and Windsor away August 23, conflict with Town Council and limited Zoom capability on August 16) Grant will need assistance with Agenda as she will be away and Windsor will be away until afternoon of August 30.

Story Walk Thompson has been working with Ashaway and Hope Valley libraries on this. There is a press release this week. It is set up at Grills Sanctuary and will go out to Tomaquag Bridge. Bob Marvel offered to put on Town Council Agenda and Grant to share press release with Town Council, and Elaine Calderone

Subcommittees:

Advocacy: Update on Planning Board plans

Stone Ridge: no new news

Comolli Solar Project: no new news

Fairview Ave: Johnson reports approval of Shoreline Inc, fee simple, 5 AC

Policy: Motorized vehicles, draft ordinance:

No update, Bob Marvel will speak with Steve Moffitt and town solicitor for input and suggestions and probably schedule a public hearing

Friends/HLT: Grant reports Friends looking into having mowing contractor assist with cutting down invasives (japanese knotweed/JK) at Depot Square/Brushy Brook and CFP sign on Tomaquag

Road obstructed by JK.

Friends applied for legislative grant for equipment for computerized mapping, should hear by the end of June.

Land Mgmt and Stewardship:

Crown Farm Preserve: Grant reports have gates that need to be installed but no money for this at this time.

Depot Square/Brushy Brook Trail update:

Grant reported letter received to extend grant to 4/1/22 to allow time for relocation of trail in the fall by Peter Jenson. \$81 thousand will go back into town budget as the grant was awarded to the town.

Signs and map work to be sent to printer in NH and are in Conservation Commission budget. Grant spoke with Hope Valley Fire Department about putting another large sign identifying fishing platform access route and was asked to place it on the grassy area. Once ready will need a work party to install.

Elaine Calderone reported that a sign was delivered to FHLT designating Wild and Scenic Access Area. She also let HLT trustees know there is a small grant opportunity available (\$2 thousand or less) that HLT could use to apply for a bench or 2 by the platform that would require 'in kind' match of money or labor. Grant will ask Anderson to work on grant.

Grills Preserve: Grant reported Homestead trail was visited and walked and there are small wet spots. There is lumber cut that will need to be moved to site.

Burn of invasives pile: The Ashaway FD hasn't burned yet and another heavy mowing is needed. Thompson will call the Ashaway FD.

Ag field project: Thompson has a call in to the farmer who is leasing the property. There are many trees that need to be cut down so field can be expanded to stone walls. This was part of the agreement with Gary Marsh and son and the lease payment will be suspended when completed for a year or two as detailed in the agreement.

Pelloni Preserve: C. Anderson applied for a grant for 'YCL Crew in your Community', which consists of 1-2 days worth of work by a crew of 8-10 that would consist of trail clearing and posting of boundary signs on July 26, 27 or 28. If granted, there will need to be an on site person from Land Trust. The days will be 6 hours. Part of the grant is that \$600/day be paid by HLT.

Windsor raised a motion for HLT to be prepared to spend up to \$1200 to Youth Organization for YCL for 2 days on Pelloni Preserve to trail clearing and boundary sign posting. Thompson seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Reports: Parent reported on computerized mapping field training session attended by himself, Grant, Johnson conducted by Eric Wuesthoff of RILTC (RI Land Trust Council). An Ipad with GPS capability or smart phone can be used and equipment can be borrowed from

RILTC and uploaded to ARC GIS online. On line trail maps could be made available to the public. One way of accessing would be QR codes.

E. Old Business: None

F. New Business: None

G. Public/Trustees Forum: Joe Moreau expressed gratitude to Grant and HLT for volunteer commitment to the town. He also mentioned going on 2 site walks to Commolli Project and Stone Ridge.

H. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. At 8:02 PM, Gibbons 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 8:11 PM

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

I. Adjourn 8:12 PM

Respectfully submitted
Mary Gibbons, Trustee