

**HOPKINTON LAND TRUST**  
**TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

January 24, 2022

**PRESENT:** Marilyn Grant, *Chair*, Sarah Windsor, *Vice-Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Tom Thompson, Mary Gibbons and Cyndy Johnson (via phone), *Trustees*. Bob Marvel, *Hopkinton Town Council liaison*, Alana Russell, *public*.

**ABSENT:** None

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

**Agenda for Annual Meeting portion**

**A. Call to order** at 6:03 by Grant with 7 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

**B. Review of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes:** Grant provided minutes from 2019 as that was our last annual meeting due to Covid. We will be reviewing and updating these annual goals and action list.

**C. Discussions:** Possible change in procedure/timing for election of officers.

Grant discussed the possibility that we consider changing or codifying Land Trust officer terms to better facilitate continuity. Discussion ensued, general consensus was this idea had merit and we will consider further at future meetings.

**D. Goal Setting:**

Shift to stewardship: Now with the James property purchase complete, we have fewer funds available for acquisition. Grant suggested stewardship should be our new priority. We need to come up with a list of stewardship priorities for each property. We all agreed to work with Friends group to develop this list. The plan is to start monthly work parties beginning in March based on this list.

Funding: Funds down to about \$270K. We will continue to apply for grants to share in the cost of new properties

Goals and Action Lists: Grant shared with us our Goals and Action list from November of 2019 when we had our last Annual Meeting (2020 annual meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic). We reviewed and discussed this list in great detail and made updates:

**2022 Annual Goals**

1. To have an active property stewardship program based on a prioritized property project list, with monthly work days.
2. To continue to have 2 or 3 education and/or fun events/walks per year.
3. Build stronger partnerships with other like-minded organizations (WPWA, Charlestown Land Trust and Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust)
4. Get assistance with seeking out Grants
5. Develop a procurement plan to better define purchasing policy between Land Trust and the Friends Group.

## 2022 Annual Action List

1. Develop prioritize property stewardship list and aggressively implement at monthly work parties.
2. Plan an event or events celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Land Trust.
3. Better define what the HLT goal is for Land acquisition. Should there be a new bond?

E. **Public Forum:** None

F. **Adjourn Annual Meeting:** 6:49 PM

### Agenda for Regular Meeting

A. **Call to order** at 6:50 by Grant with 7 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

B. **Approval of Previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of December 20, 2021 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and approved with minor corrections, passed unanimously, including sealing of Executive Minutes.

C. **Accounting of funds:** Citizen's \$18,541; Webster \$270,583

#### D. Reports

Chair: Meeting schedule: Upcoming regular meetings: February 28, March 28, April 25. Grant also reported that Town budget workshops will be held on 2/28, 3/1, 3/3, 3/9 and 3/14.

##### Subcommittees:

Advocacy-update on plans before the Planning Board: Windsor reported there is no updates on the Comolli solar project and that there was an appeal before the Zoning Board for the large solar project off Palmer Circle recently approved by the Planning Board.

Friends/HLT: Gearing up for projects, list reviewed with Buford: Grant reported the Friends have been developing a list of priority work needed for properties with the help of Harvey Buford and will share it with us in the near future.

##### Land Mgmt and Stewardship:

Depot Square/Brushy Brook Trail update: Grant reported that the spur trail is now ready for repair (damaged due to storms) and said that Peter Jensen, who designed and built the trail, will be in town on 1/27 to review the damage. Repair will commence upon warmer temperatures. Thompson reported that clearing of downed trees from storm damage was completed earlier this month and that one of the trail signs was adjusted to a lower height for handicapped access.

Funding and Grants: Wild and Scenic Rivers. Grant reported that we are considering applying for a grant to build a handicapped bench around the perimeter of the viewing platform and wheel chair accessible parking lot along the Brushy Brook trail

E. Old Business: None

F. New Business: Annual Reorganization: Election of Land Trust officers

- Baker made a motion, seconded by Gibbons for Sarah Windsor to be Chair for calendar year 2022, passed unanimously. Grant served as Chair for many years, and we applaud her for her hard work, commitment, energy and passion for the Land Trust. Well done, Marilyn!
- Thompson made a motion, seconded by Grant for Jason Parent to be Vice Chair for calendar year 2022, passed unanimously
- Windsor made a motion, seconded by Thompson, for Carol Baker to be Secretary for calendar year 2022, passed unanimously.

G. Public Forum:

- Alana Russell introduced herself, she is interested in becoming involved with the Land Trust. She works at URI as the biocontrol lab manager in the Department of Natural Resources and grew up in Hopkinton. All welcomed her and discussed the option of becoming an associate trustee.
- Marvel reported that at the last Town Council meeting 2 new members were approved by the Council for the Conservation Commission: Dawn Spears and David Augustyn.

H. Executive Session: pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch. 42-46-5a, (5)]: None  
Discuss potential land acquisition

I. Adjourn 7:29 pm