

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2022

Crandall House

PRESENT: Sarah Windsor *Chair*, Jason Parent, *Vice-Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Tom Thompson, Marilyn Grant, Cyndy Johnson and Mary Gibbons, *Trustees*. Alana Russell, *public*.

ABSENT: None

A. Call meeting to order at 7:02 by Windsor with 7 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

B. Approval of Previous meeting minutes Minutes of February 28, 2022 Public minutes were reviewed, minor corrections were made. Grant made a motion to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Johnson, passed unanimously.

C. Old Business:

1. Chair: Meeting Schedule:

Next Land Trust meeting will be April 25.

Land Trust Alliance Risk Management workshops: Being offered virtually via Zoom . Will be held on six Tuesdays from 6 to 7:15pm. \$30 for 5 people to attend: Thompson, Johnson, Gibbons, Russell, Parent are interested, the first one is April 6.

2. Budget and Funding Update

Grant reported: Citizens Account: \$17,831, Webster: \$270,596. Submitted request for reimbursement to RIDEM for James Property administrative work (appraisal, survey and title costs) for 50%. Grant contacted Iz Monty, new Finance Director, to track status of funds, as well status of Conservation Stewardship Endowment Funds Account originally set up by Ed Wood.

Budget workshop: Grant and Windsor attended budget workshop, Town Council gratefully thanked us for our fine work and approved our request for \$14,000.

Chris Anderson, who performs administrative tasks for the Land Trust, has been paid \$20/hr for the past several years. She has reduced her hours from 15 hours / week, to about 10 hours as she has accomplished much in the way of file management. Grant made a motion to increase hourly rate from \$20 to \$22, seconded by Baker. Passed unanimously.

3. Subcommittees:

Advocacy: Update on planning board: Johnson reported the following:

1) Zoning board scheduled for March 30 regarding Map 11 Lot 47A / Sculco proposal at exit 2. Attorney Peter Skwirz to appeal Planning Board decision to grant approval of Master Plan for a large scale solar project.

2) Planning Board Meeting: No info yet available for scheduled April 7 meeting

3) Skunk Hill Solar map 18 lots 8, 13, 14. Jason Tefft reports no trail engineering or design yet in place for access trail to Witch Rocks

4) Nothing new to report on Comolli Solar Easement: Map 2 bt 73

4. Friends/HIT: Project list; grant for HIT laptop; fundraising status for Brushy Brook .

Chariho Rotary Grants due 4/15/22: Community Planning Grants: email was sent to Friends and Land Trust. Perhaps Friends could use to help with Music in the Valley concerts.

Wild and Scenic: 7 Rivers Festival June 25 and 26. Received and email from WPWA regarding upcoming festival celebrating our local waterways, and requesting organizations to offer an activity or event. Russell suggested she might be able to offer an aquatic invertebrate identification workshop. More discussion to follow.

5. Progress and Management and Stewardship:

Prioritize project list for Sunset Design: Discussion regarding prioritizing projects, including parking area at Brushy Brook Trail (possible grant from Wild and Scenic), trail development at Pelloni and Crown Farm Preserves.

- Baker reported she spoke with Harvey Buford, regarding getting GPS/GIS files of trails, and contacted Peter Stetson, who provided her with the Crown Farm files. She will forward them to Parent for him to set up on a tablet; Johnson, Grant, Parent will go out this Saturday with tablet and GPS unit from Land Trust alliance to reflag trails.
- Baker will reach out to Southern Rhode Island Conservation District with regards to obtaining the Pelloni GIS data.

Depot Square/BB trail update: Grant reported the following

- Grant and Thompson reported that Jensen and Tuthill will be in contact this week to coordinate trail work.
- Knotweed not up yet, we are looking into getting a blade for the weedwacker. Work party for this would be in June. Parent said most effective is herbicide, some are approved near water. Use DEM Approved professional applicator? Russell volunteered to contact DEM to discuss further.
- Map Kiosk updates: Anderson has picked up kiosk maps Grills Preserve, Crowne Farm and Brushy Brook, designed by Pete Stetson for HCC. Will contact Buford for installation logistics.
- Mechanic St site by the shed. This can then be used in grant application from Wood Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council.

D. New Business: Trustee terms and plans; potential new members

- Alana Russell has expressed interest in becoming an associate member and has been attending meetings for the past several months. Gibbons made a motion, seconded by Thompson to approve associate membership for Russell. Approved unanimously.
- Windsor requested that we activate action list, Gibbons agreed to start next month.

E. Old Business: Discuss meeting venue and hybrid/remote options going forward

F. Public Forum / Trustees Forum: None

G. Executive Session: None

H. Adjourn: 8:22 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Baker, Secretary