

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
September 27, 2021 - Crandall House

PRESENT: Marilyn Grant, *Chair*, Sarah Windsor, *Vice-Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Jason Parent and Mary Gibbons, *Trustees*. Jeff Walker, Nick Alge, Public, Bob Marvel, Town Council.

ABSENT: Cyndy Johnson, Tom Thompson. *Trustees*

A. Call to order at 7:03 by Grant with 5 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

B. Approval of previous meeting minutes: Minutes of August 16, 2021 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed. Baker made a motion to approve Public and Executive minutes and to seal the Executive minutes, which was seconded by Windsor. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Old Business:

1. Chair and Member Reports:

- i. Westerly Track Race: Grant introduced Jeff Walker and Nick Alge from the Westerly Track and Athletic Club, who are requesting use of some trails at the Grills Wildlife Sanctuary on October 30, 2021 for a new race the Club is sponsoring. The race will have 2 tracks, both starting from the Westerly side; a 10 K race will stay on the Westerly side, a 10 mile race will go over the Polly Coon bridge onto the Hopkinton side. They have liability insurance for the event. Baker made a motion, seconded by Gibbons to approve request. Motion passed unanimously. They also requested authorization to perform some trail maintenance on the Hopkinton side, weed wacking near the Polly Coon bridge, and clearing one large blow down on East Loop trail. Gibbons made a motion to approve trail work with liability waivers signed by each individual doing work, seconded by Parent. Passed unanimously. Grant will reach out to Town Manager Rosso with regard to liability waiver paperwork.

Walker and Alge leave at 7:25

- ii. Meeting Schedule: October 25, November 22, December 20.
- iii. Annual meeting, goals: November 8, tentative date for meeting.
- iv. RI Fisher Study: DEM/URI : Grant shared a year end report for the Fisher study, where trail cameras are set up on the Kenyon Crossroads property. Study will continue another 2 years.

2. Budget and Funding Update: Grant reported the balances as of the end of August are Citizens \$17,207 and Webster \$666,139. Have not received monthly incremental real estate transfer fee.

3. Subcommittees:

i. Advocacy – Update on Plans before the Planning Board:

- a. Comolli: Buford and Grant walked property with Comolli. Looked at old trails and roads, Comolli is offering to open them up and create extra trails on easement portion outside the solar installation while construction equipment is present. Discussion regarding easement of written by John McCoy in coordination with Comolli lawyer. Send to Planning Board for approval, which will become an exhibit attached to the project.

b. Dave Johnson / 46 Fairview: Windsor was contacted by Johnson, and Johnson will be sending us a plan to review.

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. Vote on Council agenda October 4: Baker attended the 2 public meetings, which was closed on the 20th and reported that the discussion was mostly positive with all Town Councilors appearing to be in favor, and Police Chief Palmer spoke in favor as well.

4. Friends/HLT: Annual meeting tonight 9/27. Grant reported the following:

- i. HLT would like to reconnect with board members to get things moving again
- ii. Fall (Spring) Trail Projects: List sent from Grant. Downed Trees should be first priority. Need to contact stewards of properties. Grant asks us all to prioritize the list.

5. Land Mgmt and Stewardship

- i. Tree Clearing/ contract for big projects RFQ. Grant continues to work on it and will review with Rosso.
- ii. Depot Square/Brushy Brook: Grant reported there are several trees down totally blocking trail and there is a new washout behind preschool. Jensen coming in the spring.
- iii. Grills Preserve: Burn clearing, agricultural field project. Nothing new from Thompson.
- iv. James: MOU, management Plan, Survey
 1. Parent, Johnson and Gibbons shared the latest draft of the management plan, will go to DEM next.
 2. MOU as attachment to management plan for firewood removal, written by Thompson after meeting with Grant and James, reviewed by McCoy. Needs to be reviewed by James again with Thompson and Grant. Notification at trail head needs to be posted so public is aware that active wood cutting may be taking place.

D. New Business: Approve Certificate of Secretary

Grant reported that Baker as Land Trust secretary needs to sign a certificate of secretary to be sent to DEM for the final closing of the James property. Windsor made a motion to approve the signing of the Certificate of Secretary by Baker, Parent seconded. Passed unanimously.

E. Public Forum/Trustees Forum:

1. Baker said she'll be walking the Grills Sanctuary trail on Sunday October 3 for Jimmy Fund Dana Farber walkathon. All are welcome to join her.
2. Quad kayak: Grant reported that the 4 Town quad kayak on the Pawcatuck River from Potter Hill dam to Westerly was held this past weekend, and was well attended by approximately 25 fellow kayak enthusiasts from all 4 towns including Harvey Buford and the Grants.

F. Executive Session: If needed [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. None needed.

I. Adjourn 8:54 PM

Respectfully submitted
Carol Baker, Secretary