

**HOPKINTON LAND TRUST**  
**TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 28, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Marilyn Grant, *Chair*, Sarah Windsor, *Vice- Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Mary Gibbons, Ed Wood and Cyndy Johnson, *Trustees*. Tom Thompson, *Associate*.

**ABSENT:** Paul Wilcox, *Trustee*.

*Per the Hopkinton Town Council, and due to the COVID-19 virus, this MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY via Conference Call. It is unclear as to whether any other members of the public had called in and not made themselves known.*

**A. Call to order** at 7:11 by Grant with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

**B. Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of February 25, 2020 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and approved, passed unanimously, including sealing of Executive Minutes.

**C. Accounting of funds:** Citizen's \$28,493; Webster \$665,298

**D. Reports**

Chair:

Meeting schedule: Next Meeting May 26

Land and Water Summit: Was held at URI March 7; attended by Grant and Windsor. Grant reported that the sessions and speakers were knowledgeable and informative and continues to be a worthwhile conference for the Land Trust members to attend.

Subcommittees:

Advocacy- Goat Rocks, Stone Ridge: Johnson reported there is no news as the Planning Board hasn't met in 2 months. It is unclear whether or not they are meeting in May.

Friends/HLT:

Trail work schedule: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of month: Date was advertised, then cancelled because of Governor's executive order of 5 or less people meeting in a group, 5 showed up individually, and did much work, along road and trails.

Garden Party for June postponed due to COVID-19.

Land Mgmt and Stewardship:

Crown Farm Preserve parking – Grant reported that Key Corp has completed their work on the parking lot and trailhead, Sunset Design has begun their work, clearing brush with their brushhog.

Depot Square/Brushy Brook Trail update- Wood reported that the DEM Public Comment period produced one abutter letter who had some concerns regarding effect on wildlife. The hearing is closed, and Wood wrote letter asking for expedited final permit approval so we can get started on the project. Wood also reported that he has heard from Peter Jensen, who will be helping to design the trail, he may be available sooner than October due to other project cancellations.

URI Trocki class: 3 BDR's under way for Grills Preserve, Crown Farm, Mechanic St.

Mechanic St. shed, security issues: Grant reported there have been 2 separate incidents of items being taken from property, cinder blocks and pipe materials; both were reported to

Police. Security camera footage from local businesses has been provided to Police. Discussion ensued regarding need for motion sensitive light, Wood agreed to look into this.

Bradford solar trail, fence damage: Wood reported he received an email from Palumbo solar company lawyer that a tree on our property fell on and damaged their fence. Asked for \$1500 for repair. Meanwhile, Palumbo contacted Wood asking about clearing trees on our property that were shading their panels. This clearing could be beneficial to wildlife for creating successional cottontail habitat. Wood spoke with Kathy Sparks at DEM, and URI Grad student, Pat MacMeekin, who is also a professional forester, is one doing BDR study. We will await his input.

Funding and Grants:

Hearing on Town Budget is May 5, 7:30PM .

This is a remote call in meeting via phone. We are requesting the same amount as last year, \$15K as requested in Town budget under Capital Improvement Projects. All are encouraged to attend/listen. It is unclear as to whether public comment will be allowed.

**E. Old Business:** N/A

**F. New Business:**

Approve award of Crown Farm trail work to Sunset Design and Gardens

Baker made a motion, seconded by Gibbons, to approve Sunset Design \$4500 for Crowne Farm Preserve, passed unanimously.

Add item to Agenda - Gibbons made a motion, seconded by Windsor to add items to agenda property. Passed unanimously.

- Received 2 bids for a request for a property appraisal: Scotti was \$3,000, Sweeney bid \$3,500. Wood made a motion, seconded by Baker to accept Scotti bid. Passed unanimously.
- Award bid for conservation values report for same property, we need the information for DEM Open Space application. 2 bids were received: Carol Trocki: Mosaic Land Management: \$1,653 and Linda Steere: Applied BioSystems: \$1,080. Johnson made a motion, to accept Steere bid, seconded by Wood. Passed unanimously.

**G. Public Forum:** None

**H. Executive Session** [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. At 8:02 PM, Wood moved that we go into executive session, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5), to discuss potential land acquisitions. Baker seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Return to public session: 8:10. No business was conducted due to concern about confidentiality of Conference Call.

**I. Adjourn** 8:11 PM