

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2021

PRESENT: Marilyn Grant, *Chair*, Sarah Windsor, *Vice-Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Mary Gibbons and Cyndy Johnson, *Trustees*. Bob Marvel, *Hopkinton Town Council liaison*, Jason Parent, Joe Morreau, *public*.

ABSENT: Tom Thompson, *Trustee*

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

- A. Call to order** at 7:04 by Grant with 5 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.
- B. Approval of previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of March 23, 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 \$4,437; Webster \$666,016.

D. Reports

Chair:

Meeting schedule: Upcoming meeting dates: May 25, June 22

Forest Management Plan Options: Baker motioned to move to new business, Johnson seconded. Passed unanimously.

Jason Parent formally appointed as new Land Trust trustee, but is not sworn in as of yet.

Training Sessions: Grant reminded us of 2 upcoming trainings (via Zoom) for members of municipal boards and commissions:

Monday, May 5, 2021 at 6 PM: RI Ethics Commission will host a meeting.

Monday, May 24 at 7M: RI League of Cities and Towns will host a meeting on Parliamentary Procedures and the Open Meetings Act.

Grant urged all to make the effort to attend both meetings. Also to be scheduled: Standardized procedures for boards and commissions.

Land Trust Council: Training tomorrow 4/28, 6:30 on using ArcGIS Online to assist in mapping and monitoring land trust properties using a web-based map. Parent said that training will be available by the RILTC May thru July to offer field training with the app as well.

Subcommittees:

Advocacy: Update on plans before the Planning Board, in prep for Land Trust

Comolli Solar Project: Harvey, Johnson, Capalbo, Comolli and Windsor met virtually with Comolli Lawyer, Joelle Rocha, issues to be covered in CE, who contacted McCoy for verbiage. Under current proposal, the HLT would receive FS on property after decommissioning. Will reconvene once P&S. Marvel stated that he is concerned about Boards and commissions talking to developers and lawyers before approval. Windsor

explained that part of negotiation is to be proactive for benefit of HLT.

Fairview Ave: Windsor reported we received new plans, potentially we will get FS on lot 5, which includes Witch Rock, HLT will put in gate.

Stone Ridge: No new news.

Policy: Property vandalism response, Draft ordinance update:
Gibbons unaware of any changes. Marvel will wait for now until we have a better working document.

Friends/HLT: Anderson reported she is working on putting together a spring work schedule, not only Depot Square, Crown Farm but also Pelloni (tree down). Trails not clearly marked on Pelloni property, we need to install boundary signs, to be scheduled after web-mapping training.

Land Mgmt and Stewardship:

Crown Farm Preserve: Beams available for parking area tire stops at Kenyon crossroads to delineate parking spots. Grant reports this is a priority. Stetson still working on maps. Windsor walked properties recently, and suggested the trails need more signage.

Depot Square/Brushy Brook Trail update:

Grant reported work party took down construction fencing, 2 kiosks were installed, 12 people helped. Peter Jensen came down beforehand and recompacted the trail. Constant maintenance and cutting back of knotweed is a priority as well.

Grills Preserve: Thompson reported there is no update on agricultural project in the field but will reach out to Marsh to determine status and progress. Grant and the Sewalls walked the new Homestead Trail and reported that materials are needed for small bridges and the replacement and relocation of notice boards.

Manitou Hassannash: Grant spoke with several folks who read article in the Sun.

Funding and Grants: None

E. Old Business: None

F. New Business: Forest management plan discussion moved here. Need a new plan for James property before closing in the fall. Seller wants to continue to taking firewood. DEM agreed this could be worked out but has to be spelled out in CE and management plan. Grant contacted Mark Tremblay who said he could do it as well as SRICD staff. Grant requested to choose forester to write management plan. Windsor made a motion to approve Grant to fund up to \$1,000, seconded by Gibbons. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Public Forum: None

H. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. At 7:52 PM, Baker moved that we go into executive session, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5), to discuss potential land acquisitions, and to allow Parent to attend. Windsor seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Reconvene in Open Session at 8:04 PM

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

I. **Adjourn** 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted
Carol Baker, Secretary