

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2022
Crandall House

PRESENT: Sarah Windsor *Chair*, Jason Parent, *Vice-Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Tom Thompson, Marilyn Grant, and Mary Gibbons, *Trustees*. Bob Marvel, *Town Council liaison*, Alana Russell, *public*.

ABSENT: Cyndy Johnson, *Trustee*.

- A. Call meeting to order** at 7:05 by Windsor with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.
- B. Approval of Previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of April 25, 2022 Public minutes were reviewed, minor corrections were made. Gibbons made a motion to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Parent, passed unanimously.
- C. Accounting of Funds:** As of Citizens \$15,057, Webster \$270,627. Windsor spoke to Liz Monti, Director of Finance again, confirmed we'll have more detailed accounting of funds in the future.

D Chair and Member Reports

1. Chair Report:
 - i. Next meeting June 27.
 - ii. Reminder that Water Summit July 14-16. HLT will pay to anyone who wants to attend.
2. Funding and Grants:
 - i. 5TH extension of the DEM Depot Square is fully executed. New deadline is December 2022
 - ii. Beaver Flood Trail: We received \$58,000 from DEM, but money was slow in coming, Material prices have since increased greatly. Need to revisit the proposal and see how we can minimize costs, perhaps have Russ Tuthill see if he could do some of the work
3. Subcommittees:
 - i. Advocacy: Planning Board updates. None
 - ii. Other: Updates on Comolli: Comolli reached out to Windsor with signed and notarized easement documents, apparently without lawyers knowledge. Brought to Town Hall but no attachments. We are still waiting on management plan. Marvel was unaware we were told not to use the Town Solicitor, and pay McCoy. He will look into it. HLT gets the CE on area around solar field. HLT will have easement on solar field after 25 years. Comolli said he'd clear trails and pay for granite stone at property high point, looking for owner of Comolli granite company before his family. Grant will reach out to Rick Prescott, Hopkinton Historical Commission for info.
4. Friends/HLT:
 - i. Wild and Scenic: 7 Rivers Festival 6/25-26. Russell is giving a program entitled "Stream insect in our neighborhood", at Depot Square, 6/25 1-3 pm. Waiting for promo material from WPWA/Wild and Scenic
 - ii. Work Party at Depot Sq. Friday 5/20 at 9:30, 14 people showed up, took down construction fencing, small washout near beginning of trail fixed, huge amounts of weeding, weed wacking with blade, moved some of batting to protect new washout.

5. Land Mgmt and Stewardship:

- i. Progress on projects for Sunset Design: Thompson reported that Tuttle does not have a permit for herbicide for CT or RI. He does do herbicide application but over the counter pesticide, but had no thoughts on knotweed removal. Tuttle also waiting for Jensen re Depot Square. Grant also spoke with Linda Steere, who may have some ideas or companies that are permitted. Marvel suggested that we reach out to DEMr list of certified applicators near state water.
- ii. Parking area at Brushy Brook trail (possible grant from Wild and Scenic); Decided not to get Grant at last meeting, will show area to Tuttle and get his thoughts.
- iii. Trail development at Pelloni: Parent planning on walking property this weekend
- iv. Crown Farm Knotweed update: Knotweed obscuring parking lot sign. Baker and Alana spent a morning clearing in front of the sign.
- v. Brushy Brook trail update for Peter Jensen and Russ Tuttle to proceed with repairs to trail together first week of June, relocation of spur trail due to wash out.
- vi. Map/kiosk updates: Crown Farm maps, has been installed, Grills preserve, new map needs to be installed

E Old Business:

1. Hunting queries and clarification: Windsor has received several inquiries regarding hunting. It is allowed at Grills Preserve, not allowed on front part of Canonchet Preserve (TNC), is allowed on back part of (HLT) for bow hunting only. Windsor will contact TNC to confirm.
2. Farm leases to be researched and invoiced: Windsor requesting for information regarding leases, Grant said check dropbox, Finance is also looking into it.

F. New Business:

Potter Hill Mill property update: Marvel reported that the Special Master spoke to the Hopkinton Town Council, it was discovered that Westerly will be demolishing Mill, Westerly wants someone to assess the dam, looking for permanent easement on Hopkinton side for engineering work. Town Council was not aware of the 0.4 ac property. Hopkinton will give easement to Westerly to minimize Town of Hopkinton's responsibility/liability for the dam.

F. Public Forum/Trustees Forum

1. Grant attended Town Council Zoom meeting, American Rescue Funds, Hopkinton is receiving \$2.4 million from the federal government. Town Manager Rosso had requested and received input from department heads, but no input from boards and commissions. Discussion ensued regarding requesting some funds for land acquisition, it was suggested that all attend the next public workshop May 31, 6:30 pm in person or Zoom.
2. Marvel suggested we update maps on the Hopkinton Outdoors website. Russell and Parent agreed to work on getting more properties on site, start with Crown Farm Kiosk map. Marvel said to reach out to Town IT staff who can help to update the site.
3. Marvel asked how did properties come to our attention, someone had brought Lindbrook Golf Course property (now defunct) to his attention. We had looked at this property in the past, but there is a public well on the property which complicated the situation. Marvel may reach out to owner.

G. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. At 8:42 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 Russell to attend. Gibbons seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Reconvene in Open Session at 9:26 PM

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

I. **Adjourn** 9:27 PM

Respectfully submitted
Carol Baker, Secretary