

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2023
Crandall House

PRESENT: Sarah Windsor Chair, Jason Parent, Vice Chair, Marilyn Grant, Alana Russell, Cyndy Johnson and Mary Gibbons, Trustees. Michael Cervieri, public. Scott Bill Hirst, Town Council liaison.

ABSENT: Carol Baker, Secretary

A. Call meeting to order at 7:02 by Windsor with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

B. Approval of Previous meeting minutes: Minutes of January 23 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed, minor corrections were made. Russell made a motion to approve the amended minutes and seal the executive minutes, seconded by Gibbons, passed unanimously.

C. Accounting of Funds: Grant reported the following balances: Citizens \$17,137, Webster \$58,380.

D. Chair and Member Reports

1. Chair Report:

Bond discussion deferred, waiting for more information from Baker

Reorganizaion of Board: Grant nominated Windsor to continue as Chair, Parent to continue as Vice-Chair and Baker to continue as Secretary. Seconded by Gibbons. Passed unanimously

2. Funding and Grants:

a. Beaver Flood Trail:

Windsor reports that HLT is now able to access e-civis portal at DEM which is needed for working on grant

Windsor requested land trust members to email Hopkintonlandtrust@gmail.com for all communication relating to grant.

Grant to contact Peter Jensen for dates, supplies needed, etc

b. Wild and Scenic Grant - Brushy Brook awarded to HLT (\$3000)

Windsor will sign grant and return.

Grant received 1 yr estimate for knotweed removal, \$995

Russell will ask Friends group to have work day in June cutting knotweed at site and investigate best time for planting trees at site

3. Subcommittees:

Advocacy: Johnson reported on the following 2 projects currently before the Planning Board-

1. Brushy Brook written comments: Windsor and Johnson sent letter to Planning Board

2. Skunk Hill Solar: Goat Rocks. Map 18, Lot 8, 13/14. On docket for March

1, has been before Planning board for some time.

3. Brushy Brook on Planning Board schedule for April 5

4. Bradford Dam proposed cluster subdivision. Grant to contact Sergio Cherenzia to set up site visits

4. Friends/HLT:

Parent reports restoring 4 side trails, ready for blazing, will contact Friends group to set up dates

5. Land Management and Stewardship

a. Brushy Brook/Depot Square:

Johnson to call David Caswell, DPW and Justin Lee, Firechief to arrange time to visit site and discuss strategies to prevent further washout and will let Windsor know time.

b. Grills Preserve:

Grant reports Russian Olive has been dug out and field expanded. Tuthill of Sunset Design gave estimate of how much soil would be needed to level the new part of the field. The interior field has been mowed and cleared of encroachment of brush etc from surrounding woods. Will ask Thompson to meet with lessee and son to discuss plan/intentions for use..

Also discussed sending yearly reminders for lease payments with stamped self-addressed envelopes.

Scott Bill Hirst leaves 7:50

c. Schults – Access to Trails: Stie walk attended by Windsor, Parent, Russell, Johnson. Did not see skid trail and good access for parking. Will need to map trail and best sites for parking access. Proposed new name for property: Chestnut Ridge Farm.

E. Old Business:

Will ask Chris Anderson to contact interested parties in mowing contract.

F. New Business:

Grant reported on HLT budget and proposed budget for 2024. Grant and Windsor will make list of proposed projects for next year and print for town council budget hearing which is March 8 at 6pm. HLT will ask for level funding for next year at \$14000.

G. Public Forum / Trustees Forum:

Michael Cervieri expressed interest in being HLT associate member. Russell stated this item should be placed on agenda for March 27. His email is michael@cervieri.com.

H. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. At 8:07 PM, Johnson moved that we go into executive session, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5), to discuss potential land acquisitions. Russell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote. Reconvene in Open Session at 8:10 PM

Motion to seal the minutes of Executive Session: Grant made a motion to seal the Executive Minutes,

seconded by Gibbons. Passed unanimously.

I. Adjourn: 8:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Gibbons, Trustee