

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

August 28, 2023

Crandall House

PRESENT: Sarah Windsor *Chair*, Jason Parent, *Vice-Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Marilyn Grant, Alana Russell and Cyndy Johnson *Trustees*. George Commoli, Public. Scott Bill Hirst arrives 7:18 pm.

ABSENT: Mary Gibbons, *Trustee*.

- A. Call meeting to order** at 7:06 by Windsor with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.
- B. Approval of Previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of July Public minutes were reviewed, However it was unclear if all changes emailed to Gibbons, who was acting secretary in July, had been made. Approved posting interim minutes on Secretary of State website and approve final minutes in September. There was no executive session in July.
- C. Accounting of Funds:** Grant reported the following balances as of July 31: Citizens \$27,666, Webster ~\$59,000. Windsor thanked Grant for continuing with financial oversight.
- D. Chair and Member Reports**
1. Chair Report:
 - George Comolli Property Discussion: Comolli reported that he and neighbor Stolgitis cleared all the trails on the site. He is looking for recommendations for lettering/signage for rock from quarry to be placed at trail junction. "Historic Ashaway Quarry, Hopkinton Land Trust Trails" was agreed upon after some discussion. Comolli will move ahead with this project. Comolli also reported that the solar installation project on property is scheduled for preliminary approval in October, with construction to begin in the spring.
Comolli leaves at 7:22
 - Trail Planner / Overseer discussion: Windsor reported on our need to replace the presence of Harvey Buford who for so many years did so much work for the Land Trust including grant writing, trail planning, construction, and coordination of so many projects, along with the Friends group, as he has laid down much of this work. Discussion ensued including possibilities of part time paid person, potentially sharing position with other local land trusts, reach out to Kate Sayles at RI Land Trust, increase outreach and strengthen Friends Group.
 2. Funding and Grants:

Beaver Flood Trail: RFQ Responses

Windsor reported that there were no responses to our second RFQ for trail construction. It was suggested that Russ Tuthill may have ability to do the work, doesn't have to be helical piles as part of DEM grant. Thompson has spoken to Tuthill recently about project but we will need a written proposal from him and then approval from DEM for any changes. Windsor will reach out to Tuthill to discuss.
 3. Subcommittees:

Advocacy:

Brushy Brook meeting: Johnson reported that all of the August 24 Planning Board meeting was regarding Brushy Brook. Planning Board members continue to ask questions of

property owner, David Allen. Still haven't passed preliminary approval, next meeting is September 6.

4. Friends/HLT:

- Pelloni – Progress report. Parent reported that all trails are blazed and cleared, with the exception of High Cliff trail. Final map which is almost complete, will be printed and replaced old one on kiosk
- Land Trust Days : Saturday, September 30, at Crown Farm, rain date, October 1, 10 AM. Russell has volunteered to do a forest health walk and talk. Windsor will talk to Friends regarding cleaning up parking lot/check trails. Russell also suggested having a local vendor, Rob Swanson, provide homemade cider and donuts at the event. Russell will reach out to Swanson.
- Spring Event: Brainstorm Ideas, done before bond referendum vote in June to keep fresh in peoples mind. Discussion centered around which property, who might host, logistics (indoor space or tent in case of rain), should be catered, perhaps music as well.

5. Land Management and Stewardship

- Depot Square Spur Trail: Russell and Grant met with Casey Merkel, interim WPWA wild and scenic coordinator, regarding grant. Merkel offered her support and assistance, which was greatly appreciated. Treatment by contract applicator was done on property 3-4 weeks ago, previous work by work group has been very effective. Merkel said we could expand scope of project as we are currently under budget to deal with other invasives and said there are grants available and recommended a professional restoration planner from Save the Bay who could provide advice. Johnson also reported that DJ McGouran will complete repair work on lower trail.

(Scott Bill Hirst leaves at 8:23)

- Kenyon Crossroads fence repair: No news.
- Material and Equipment from Harvey Buford: Buford has many supplies and tools purchased over the years that he would like moved from his property to a place more easily accessible for Land Trust and Friends projects. Windsor and Russell volunteered their trucks to move materials to Windsor's old barn for temporary storage, until we can see what can fit in the Land Trust shed.

E. Old Business:

Bond Discussion: Parent reviewed powerpoint he had created, analyzing cost of purchasing open space vs housing lots on same properties. The presentation demonstrated that housing lots cost more than open space, using numbers from Hopkinton budget document. Discussion ensued regarding how to best present this to town officials and solicit town support.

F. New Business: None

G. Public Forum / Trustees Forum: None

H. Executive Session: None

I. Adjourn: 8:52 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Baker, Secretary