

**HOPKINTON LAND TRUST**  
**TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**January 23, 2023**

**Crandall House**

**PRESENT:** Sarah Windsor *Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Marilyn Grant, Alana Russell, Cyndy Johnson and Mary Gibbons, *Trustees*. Michael Cervieri, *public*. Scott Bill Hirst, *Town Council liaison*.

**ABSENT:** Jason Parent, *Vice Chair*

- 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 December 19 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 Johnson, passed unanimously.
- C. Accounting of Funds:** Grant reported the following balances: Citizens \$24,188, Webster \$61,213.
- D. Chair and Member Reports**
- A. Chair Report:
1. Annual Goal discussion, working off last years goals:
    - i. We have been proactive with active property stewardship based on list, Pelloni, Crowne Farm, Brushy Brook work as examples. Upcoming challenges will be in finding a Clerk of Works for Beaver Flood Trail DEM Trail grant.
    - ii. Education events: Russell WPWA Scenic River invertebrate talk, Brushy Brook Trail and Accessible Fishing Platform Dedication event for Ed and Linda Wood. Russell suggested strengthening educational outreach further.
    - iii. Build strong partnership: WPWA, TNC, DEM. Ted Dione, Westerly Land Trust. We could work with RILTC more.
    - iv. Seeking out grants: Have received trail grants from DEM, submitted grants from WPWA and partnering with TNC in purchase of Schults property.
    - v. Procurement plan between Friends and HLT, Thompson expressed interest in clarifying this. Currently cooperation is working well, but need to look further down the road. Further discussion needed, will reach out to Thompson.
    - vi. Grant looking at older goals, one was to develop a plan for another bond by 2018/2019. We need to consider another one now, as we have almost depleted all the last bonds funds. Tough time now with Chariho budget not approved, yet town residents always support open space protection. Baker will reach out to new Town Clerk, Marita Murray to get info on bonding process.
    - vii. Cultural Easement: Windsor shared with us via email a cultural easement between Land Trust and Wampanoag tribe on the Cape. She encouraged us to find ways to more actively engage our Native American residents in Land Trust activities and land protection efforts.

2. Funding and Grants:

- i. Wild and Scenic application for Brushy Brook Trail Plantings: Russell reported she submitted the grant in late December, WPWA Board will be reviewing them, will be notifying applicants in March. Russell thanked all for the help in reviewing the grant and map production.
- ii. Beaver Flood Trail: Windsor reported she is working with Liz Monti, Director of Finance, to set up the RIDEM Grant Management online software to track expenses and manage the grant. DEM is waiting for this to be completed so we can get the project started. Grant communicating with Peter Jensen about getting trail planning started.

3. Subcommittees:

- i. Advocacy: Johnson reported on the following 2 projects currently before the Planning Board-
  1. Brushy Brook written comments: Windsor and Johnson met with Talia Jalette, Town Planner, recently to review plans. She's looking for written comments from Town boards and commissions. Possible vote by Planning Board on February 15. Windsor and Johnson will work on comments to send to Jalette on behalf of the Land Trust.
  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.

*Scott Bill Hirst leaves 8:18*

4. Friends/HLT: No updates.

5. Land Management and Stewardship

- i. Brushy Brook/Depot Square: Windsor reported there is a new washout on the trail from same source, road runoff from both state (Rte 3) and town (Mechanic St) roads. Windsor reported that State Representative Brian Patrick Kennedy is working on state end. Hope Valley Fire District is trying to coordinate with DOT, Town Highway to deal with problem. Stormwater from Rte 3, goes under culvert on Mechanic St onto our property. David Caswell from Town Highway will reach out to Sarah to discuss problem.
- ii. Grills Preserve: Grant spoke with Amanda Cugno, DEM Fish and Wildlife habitat, described regarding 2 projects on the property:
  - 1) the removal of brush piles, digging out of a stand of Russian Olive, moving the brush to location inside the gate and subsequent crushing of the material along the western border of the field adjacent to the parking area.
  - 2) Working with the farmer who holds lease on the interior agricultural field, have the field overhauled by harrowing, resulting in removal of Tree of Heaven

invasive species, and reestablishment of earlier field boundaries lost due to forest encroachment.

Cugno approved both projects. Grant also contacted Thompson to give Tuthill the green light to begin the work.

- iii. Schults – Access to Trails: Peter Schults recently called Windsor, interested in helping out with any trail work on the property. They have a skid trail off Collins Rd, that would be a good access point to property. Would be happy to meet us out there for site walk, and perhaps GPS some trails.

**E. Old Business:**

Windsor reported mowing contract under revision/new mower to be contacted. Grant and Anderson will review contract for any revisions.

**F. New Business:**

Town Council liaison replacement: Windsor reported that Scott Bill Hirst is our new liaison.

**G. Public Forum / Trustees Forum:**

Grant reminded us we need to work on reorganization/voting for Land Trust officers at our next meeting.

**H. Executive Session** [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. At 8:44 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 8:48 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:** 8:48 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Baker, Secretary