

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

April 24, 2023
Crandall House

PRESENT: Sarah Windsor *Chair*, Jason Parent, *Vice Chair* Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Marilyn Grant, Alana Russell, Cyndy Johnson and Mary Gibbons *Trustees*. Tom Thompson, *Associate Member*. Scott Bill Hirst, *Town Council liaison*, arrives 8:05.

ABSENT: None

- A. Call meeting to order** at 7:03 by Windsor with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.
- B. Approval of Previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of March 27 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed, minor corrections were made. Gibbons made a motion to approve the amended minutes and seal the executive minutes, seconded by Parent, passed unanimously.
- C. Accounting of Funds:** Grant reported the following balances: Citizens \$8,195, Webster \$58,581. We received first installment of invasive species grant, \$1500.

D. Chair and Member Reports

1. Chair Report:

Bond discussion: Baker spoke with Town Clerk, Marita, for details on logistics of getting an open space bond referendum, as we have little money left from last bond in 2008 for land acquisition. Need authorization of Town Council to add to ballot with 50 signatures, 200 to override their veto. Best option is for next town budget referendum in April 2024. We reviewed our Open Space bonds to date, \$2 million in 2008, \$1 million in 2004. General discussion ensued. Timing for a particular property is difficult.

RI State Ethics responses: State ethics report/questionnaire is due April 28.

2. Funding and Grants:

Beaver Flood Trail: RFQ Posted published in Westerly Sun on 4/16, and was sent to 3 vendors. Proposals due May 5.

3. Subcommittees:

Advocacy:

Brushy Brook meeting: Planning Board Agenda: April 5: Johnson attended meeting. Project has already received preliminary approval, all the Planning Board can do is make sure its done properly, even with strong public opposition to project. Not ready for final vote as PB was given large volume of information 2 days before meeting, did not have time to digest. Continued to June meeting. Town ordinance says only 46 houses/year can be built in the Town, so would still take 5-6 years to be built out.

Narragansett Trail: Windsor reported on a property owned by Diocese of Rhode Island on Stubtown Road. Diocese is proposing to develop 2 lots on road, given give 18 acres to TNC, working with abutting neighbor Nocera, TNC and Narragansett Chapter of the Appalachian

Mountain Club. Hoping to obtain a 10 ' easement for Narragansett Trail, TNC would like hold easement potentially. No involvement of HLT at this time.

4. Friends/HLT: Pelloni - GPS work and blazing work continues. Mapping to be completed, Anderson told Windsor that trail blazing continues, almost done. GPS points collected, not mapped yet by Parent. Baker will reach out to Buford regarding original digital copy of trailhead maps so can be updated.

Work party at Grills 4/21: Route 91 – Bradford

Trail widening and 2 bog bridges need to be installed.

5. Land Management and Stewardship

- Depot Square Spur Trail: Grant, Windsor Johnson, met Lee from Hope Valley Fire, they are willing to help on this. DOT was supposed to send us plans, have not received anything yet. DOT/DPW went to site, DOT states they can do anything as problem area is on private property. We need to reach out to property owner, Johnson will work on this
- Johnson/Russell and Michael Hoxie planting 5 swamp maples, high bush blueberry, swamp azalea, down at end of trail by fishing platform. Will plant so to maintain public access directly to the water.
- Grills Preserve/Farm Leases: Thompson spoke with Gary Marsh, he has been talking with Barry James Sr, who is interested in taking over some of the leases. Tuthill cleared ballfield and cleared back field, James interested in these. Thompson will walk these 2 fields with James. Leases haven't been paid since 2019. Grant will send leases to Windsor and Thompson to follow up.

E. Old Business:

Mowing contract in place to begin May 1, taking over for Tom Pierney, Coastal Landscape offshoot.

F. New Business: Proposed Associate Member Consideration: Michael Cervieri

Russel made a motion to approve Michael Cervieri as Associate Member of the Hopkinton Land Trust, seconded by Grant. Passed unanimously.

G. Public Forum / Trustees Forum:

Hirst reminded us he is willing to bring any items we see fit to the Town Council.

H. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. **None**

I. Adjourn: 8:33 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Baker, Secretary