

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

May 22, 2023
Crandall House

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

ABSENT: Carol Baker, Secretary

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 April 24 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: Grant reported the following balances: Citizens \$6,893, Webster \$58,690. Sunset Design paid out of Citizens Bank, received ag lease payment from Teffts and James.

D. Chair and Member Reports

1. Chair Report:

Bond discussion: Parent reports there are 100 studies showing economic impact and benefit of open space conservation, will make powerpoint and share slides. Time frame is for April 2024

7:49 pm, Rick Vachon, of 153 Woodville Alton Road, Hopkinton arrived and spoke of interest in agricultural leases. He has 6 black angus cows and a pair of pulling oxen, and would like to fertilize with manure. Was informed that hay, straw, corn possible. He states will submit a bid within the next 24 hours after speaking with Ted Lewis. The lease would start May 1 and expect the 4 fields to be cut 3-4x year and follow best practices.

8pm Rick Vachon departed

2. Funding and Grants

Beaver Flood Trail: RFQ, proposals due 6/2/23

3. Subcommittees:

Advocacy:

Brushy Brook: Next Planning Board meeting 6/14/23, will be discussing Brushy Brook

4. Friends/HLT: Pelloni - GPS mapping completed, trail blazing needs to be done.

Work party at Grills 4/21: cleaned up parking area and bog bridge installed

Brushy Brook: Work party removed invasives and cleaned up entry.

5. Land Management and Stewardship

Depot Square Spur Trail: Johnson called and left message and emailed adjacent property owner, no response.

Johnson to meet with Michael Hoxie to go over plantings.

Windsor, Thompson, Grant, Johnson to meet at trail and layout plan to work on trail on 5/26.

Justin Lee, HFD, offered assistance.

Grills Preserve/Farm Leases: Thompson met with Barry James Sr and spoke with Gary Marsh.

James is interested in hay leases on Doug James, Crown Farm Preserve and 2 Grills Preserve properties (his daughter has 40 milking cows). Barry James has already sent payment for leases on these properties. Marsh owes HLT for the last 3 years (\$1350) leases and expressed desire to care for the field on Kenyon Crossroads. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Gibbons to enter into lease with Rick Vachon for agriculture fields (4 - Pierce, Kenyon Crossroads, Grills Sanctuary(2)) dependent upon minimum bid of \$400/year for 3 years. Seconded by Russell. Passed unanimously.

E. Old Business:

Mowing has started for HLT trailheads

F. New Business: Hopkinton Outdoors Page, Russell will work with Michael Cervieri and update properties and maps. (Bruce Hooke had contract renewed with HLT for website and should/may help with updates)

G. Public Forum / Trustees Forum: None

8:35 pm Scott Bill Hirst departed

H. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)]. At 8:35 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.

I. Adjourn: 8:43 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Gibbons, Trustee