

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2024

Crandall House

PRESENT: Sarah Windsor *Chair*, Jason Parent, *Vice-Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Mary Gibbons and Marilyn Grant, Cynthia Johnson, Alana Russell, *Trustees*.

ABSENT: None

- A. Call meeting to order** at 6:04 by Windsor with 7 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.
- B. Approval of Previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of November 27 Public minutes were reviewed. Gibbons made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Russell, passed unanimously. Executive minutes of November 27 Executive session were reviewed. Parent made a motion to accept and seal executive minutes, seconded by Grant, passed unanimously.
- C. Accounting of Funds:** Grant reported the following: As of November 30, 2023, Citizens balance is \$29,181. No balance update for Webster account.
- D. Chair and Member Reports**
1. Chair Report:
 - Potter Hill Dam Update: Grant, Gibbons and Johnson attended a public meeting presented by Fuss & O'Neill, held at Ashaway Elementary School on December 6 with regard to various proposed options for dam removal at Potter Hill. Acoustics at the meeting were challenging, presentation was long, not much time for public questions. Westerly Town Council will decide on 3 options and have another public meeting to discuss. Many environmental organizations support the full dam removal, and some members of the public support removal of the dam but maintaining water level at present height. Discussion ensued as what our sense was to with regards to various options; consensus was for no recommendation or support of the options.
 - Rittling walk/trail planning: Grant, Russell and Windsor walked property with Bill and Susan Rittling. The Rittlings agreed allow public use of trails on their property that are adjacent to our Schults property.
 - Bond update/Town Council Meeting: No update for date to discuss with Town Council. Waiting to hear from Hirst who was going to reach out to TC President Geary. Also waiting for information we requested from Manager and Finance manager with regard to bonding costs.
 2. Funding and Grants: Beaver Flood Trail: None
 3. Subcommittees:
 - Advocacy: Brushy Brook/Solar Projects: Johnson reported on the following
 - Comolli: Meeting pushed to February
 - Brushy Brook or Skunk Hill: Haven't heard anything new.
 4. Friends/HLT:
 - Pelloni – Final map corrections: Parent reported he hasn't from SRICD with regard to final changes, emailed Brian Corvese again, and cc'd his supervisor, Gina Fuller as well.

- Winter Bond and Spring Events: Wait to hear from Town Council first as to timing of a joint meeting with them to discuss.
5. Land Management and Stewardship:
- Beaver Flood Trail: Beavers and DEM approval/engineering.
Grant has not heard back yet from Marc Doherty. Grant reached out to Tuttle about moving things along, has not heard back.
 - Property Monitoring: Windsor would like to discuss Land Trust annual goals at our next meeting and to rank 2 properties.

E. Old Business: None

F. New Business: Windsor reported she received an email from Harvey Buford. Buford walked Reynolds farm with Reynolds and members of the AMC. Reynolds is amenable to using the box culvert underneath Interstate 95 to reconnect trails that were cut off when his land was bisected by the construction of I95. This trail might leave from our Canonchet Brook trailhead and assist in the reestablishment of the historic Narragansett trail in this area. More to follow.

G. Public Forum/Trustees Forum: None

H. Executive Session: None

I. Adjourn: 7:01 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Baker, Secretary