

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

**February 26, 2024**

**Crandall House**

**PRESENT:** Sarah Windsor *Chair*, Jason Parent, *Vice-Chair*, Mary Gibbons, Marilyn Grant, Cynthia Johnson, Alana Russell, *Trustees*. Michael Cervieri, *Associate Trustee*, Scott Bill Hirst, *Town Council liaison*.

**ABSENT:** Carol Baker, Secretary

**A. Call meeting to order** at 7:03 pm by Windsor with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

**B. Approval of Previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of Public and Executive Meetings on January 29 minutes were reviewed. Correction of dues paid to RI Land Trust Coalition increased from \$250 to \$365 in 2023. Russell made a motion to approve the minutes, and to seal the executive minutes; seconded by Parent, passed unanimously.

**C. Accounting of Funds:** Grant reported the following account balances: 12/31/2023 Webster \$59,653, Citizens \$31,566, 1/31/2024 Citizens \$31,791

**D. Chair and Member Reports**

1. Chair Report:

- Bond update/Town Council Meeting: Complicated by school bond proposals and elementary school buildings. Discussion ensued and Parent proposed motion to reconsider making bond proposal n 6 months, seconded by Johnson, passed unanimously.
- Land and Water Summit at URI on March 9, all day. Reminded trustees that HLT will cover registration cost for any trustee who would like to attend. Windsor, Russell and Grant to attend

2. Funding and Grants: Windsor reported that Joanne Riccitelli (formerly SKLT) is working for the Forest program through NRCS and there are grant dollars available. Question of whether HLT can hold easement in another town. Deadline for NRCS money March 29. Johnson will look up list of owners who may be interested.

Russell gave update on Brushy Brook grand, have extension until 6/1/24 for habitat restoration. Will look into getting plants, soil and ground cover and coordinate work day with Friends group. Approximately \$2000 left to spend.

3. Subcommittees:

- Advocacy: Brushy Brook/Solar Projects/Comolli: No update, next meeting March 6

4. Friends/HLT:

- Pelloni – Final map completed, sent to Anderson

- Bond Events: deferred

5. Land Management and Stewardship:

- Beaver Flood Trail: DEM approval/engineering. Ongoing issues.  
Grant, Buford, Russell, Dyanne, Windsor, Gibbons walked property on Thursday 2/22.  
Grant arranging meeting and walk with CJ Doyle, Linda Steere, Josh Suchocki March 1 on property
- Property Monitoring: Windsor reported mattress between James and Crown Farm Preserve. Discussion on need to get help with tree removal on CFP from Russ Tuttle. Question of whether Chris Anderson has check list for property monitoring.
- Depot Square Rain Damage: Sign up (made by Bill Anderson) that path from Mechanic street is no longer wheelchair accessible due to rain damage and to please use caution.

**E. Old Business:** Reynolds Trail Easement: Nothing new

**F. New Business:** Yearly Goals

1. Budget workshop: February 29, 6 PM, this coming Thursday with Town Council.

**G. Public Forum/Trustees Forum:** Hirst complimented Land Trust for all the work we've accomplished compared to other Town Boards.

**H. Executive Session: Executive Session** None

**I. Adjourn:** 8:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Gibbons, Acting Secretary