

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

June 26, 2023
Crandall House

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

ABSENT: Jason Parent, *Vice Chair*, Alana Russell, *Trustee*.

- A. Call meeting to order** at 7:06 by Windsor with 5 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.
- B. Approval of Previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of May 22 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed, minor corrections were made. Johnson made a motion to approve the amended minutes and seal the executive minutes, seconded by Grant, passed unanimously. Baker expressed thanks to Gibbons for taking minutes during her absence last month.
- C. Accounting of Funds:** Grant reported the following balances as of May 31: Citizens \$8,393, Webster \$58,806. We received first installment of invasive species grant, \$1500.
- D. Chair and Member Reports**
1. Chair Report: None
 2. Funding and Grants:
 - Beaver Flood Trail: Windsor reported that noone responded to first RFQ, sent out a second one and with direct ask to other contractors.
 3. Subcommittees:
 - Advocacy:
 - Brushy Brook meeting: Johnson reported on June 7 meeting. There is so much information to review, taking extra time for Planning Board members. Many questions and concerns from the public. Project will happen, devil is in the details. Maggie Hogan, Planning Board lawyer, believes the Board is approaching decision. Next meeting for continued discussion will be July 12.
 - Skunk Hill Solar: Plat 18, Lot 8, 13, 14. Moved to August 2, Craven, lawyer for developer, asked for extension.
 - Atlantic Solar: Map 7 Lot 32, Map 11, Lot 35, Map 10 Lot 87. Moved to August 2, Craven, lawyer for developer, asked for extension.
 - Comolli: Project, which was approved, has been sold to another developer.
 4. Friends/HLT: Pelloni – Progress report. Parent reported via email that all remaining trails were blazed, except for the High Cliff Trail at the recent work party. Parent also reported that we need to post several boundary signs and trailhead signs as well. Parent shared several maps he’s produced for the trails.

5. Land Management and Stewardship

- Depot Square Spur Trail: Johnson reported it appears no additional work has occurred to repair flooded trail damage, though Johnson has met with DJ (?) twice. All newly planted trees appear to be thriving.
- Grills Preserve/Farm Leases: Windsor reported that nothing has been heard from Rich Vachon as he promised since our last meeting. Barry James Sr is expanding dairy cow operation with his daughter, and agreed to take leases for \$600 total for 3 properties. Submitted a check today.
- Kenyon Crossroads fence repair: IT has been brought to our attention that there are many fence posts that are rotted and need to be replaced. Thompson will check with Tuthill, should have been pressure treated beams.
- Sunset Designs Crown Farm/Knotweed Removal: Grant spoke with Tuthill several months ago, has not done anything, some mowing has been done by the Town. Thompson will reach out to Tuthill for status report.

E. Old Business:

Progress on Hopkinton Outdoors/ town website:

Michael reported he and Alana met with Chris Anderson to review and update maps, also reached out to Bruce Hooke about his current hosting services. Michael has spoken with Town Manager, who is interested in as town is overhauling Town website as well. Michael is working on brand new mockup for HLT website.

F. New Business: None

G. Public Forum / Trustees Forum: Hirst thanks trustees for service to Town and how fortunate Town is to have the Land Trust.

Hirst leaves at 8:01 PM

H. Executive Session At 8:02 PM, Gibbons moved that we go into executive session, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5), to discuss potential land acquisitions. Johnson seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Return to Public Session 8:24 PM

Trustees Forum (cont):

OS Bond General discussion: Windsor made mention of a draft Powerpoint that Parent shared with us regarding economic benefits of land conservation in Hopkinton. He knows of a URI professor willing to get student to do economic analysis as we have done in the past. Discussion ensued as to what we've done in the past.

I. Adjourn: 8:29 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Baker, Secretary