

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 2023
Crandall House

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

ABSENT: Jason Parent, *Vice Chair*

- A. Call meeting to order** at 7:05 by Windsor with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.
- B. Approval of Previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of February 27 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed, minor corrections were made. Russell made a motion to approve the amended minutes and seal the executive minutes, seconded by Grant, passed unanimously.
- C. Accounting of Funds:** Grant reported the following balances: Citizens \$16,433, Webster \$58,475
- D. Chair and Member Reports**
1. Chair Report:
 - Bond discussion: Baker has not yet spoken with Town Clerk for details on logistics of having an open space bond referendum, will do so for next meeting. Councilor Hirst questioned if we had a particular property in mind, he suggested Brushy Brook.
 - Budget Review: Grant, Johnson and Windsor went to Town Council budget hearing, Land Trust received level funding.
 - Ethics responses: State ethics report/questionnaire is due soon.
 2. Funding and Grants:

Beaver Flood Trail: Grant spoke with Buford for guidance, Anderson and Grant working on updating RFQ to install boardwalk over flooded trail. Federal monies are involved which creates some hurdles, but deadline has been extended to complete work by April 1, 2025.
 3. Subcommittees:

Advocacy:
Brushy Brook meeting: Planning Board Agenda: April 5
Skunk Hill Solar Goat Rocks: Planning Board Agenda: May 3.
 4. Friends/HLT: Pelloni- GPS work and blazing work party on Friday 3/23, much was accomplished by dedicated volunteers, more needs to be done.
 5. Land Management and Stewardship
 - Depot Square Spur Trail: On March 8 Johnson and Grant met with Justin Lee (Hope Valley Fire Chief), David Caswell (DPW) to view Depot Square

damage site. Caswell offered to speak with local RIDOT head, Mike DelPozzo about helping us with repair of area around drainage pipe. At the meeting David was able to alter the water flow away from HLT trail by moving a few rocks and debris...a temporary fix. On March 13, a letter was sent to RIDOT director Alviti, asking for a site visit and help with the project. No response yet to the letter. Caswell spoke with DelPozzo, who appears either unable or unwilling to help. Current concern is damage to the upper trail caused by highway runoff. Tuthill could fix it, but washout will happen again, need to fix problem first. We should close spur trail for now, until it we can fix it.

Invasive treatment:knotweed: Grant gave Windsor a new quote from Water and Wetland LLC, for treatment of foliar spraying of pesticide will take place in August/September 2023, payment due after treatment. Will be paid from grant Russell applied for from Wild and Scenic.

- Grills Preserve/Farm Leases: Thompson spoke with Gary Marsh, has not yet paid fee for new leases. No longer a dairy operation, sold all his cows as it was no longer financially feasible. Barry James may be interested in taking over the lease. Windsor will check into status of leases with Anderson. Thompson will talk with James and Marsh again for clarification.

E. Old Business:

Windsor reported that Anderson working on mowing contract.

F. New Business: None

G. Public Forum / Trustees Forum:

Russell reported that she was approached by a Penn State PhD student interested in our Diamond Hill Swamp property where we have a stand of Ash trees, and is seeking permission to take some leaves for samples. We unanimously agreed to allow this and support the research project.

Thompson reported that Gary Marsh, chair of Conservation Commission reports that commission is basically non functioning as there is no quorum. Hirst said the Town Council is aware of this and are trying to recruit new members. It was suggested that Hirst urge the Council to more forcibly advertise and make the public more aware of openings.

Hirst leaves at 8:15.

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

I. Adjourn: 8:21 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Baker, Secretary