

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2023

Crandall House

PRESENT: Sarah Windsor *Chair*, Jason Parent, *Vice-Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Mary Gibbons, Alana Russell and Marilyn Grant, *Trustees*. Scott Bill Hirst, *Town Council liaison*. Marc Doherty, *Westerly Land Trust*.

ABSENT: Cyndy Johnson, *Trustee*

- A. Call meeting to order** at 7:04 by Windsor with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.
- B. Approval of Previous meeting minutes:** Minutes of September 25 Public minutes were reviewed, minor corrections were made. Russell made a motion to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Gibbons, passed unanimously. There were no executive minutes in September.
- C. Accounting of Funds:** Grant reported the following: As of September 30, Citizens balance is \$26,916, Webster balance is \$59, 281.

D. Chair and Member Reports

1. Chair Report:

- Marc Doherty visit/trail work help: Windsor reached out to Doherty to see if he could help us with some of our trail work. Doherty explained his role as Land Stewardship manager for Westerly Land Trust, which is a private land trust. He said his responsibilities include volunteer management, conservation easement monitoring and documentations, working with farmers and land stewardship manager. We discussed ways he would be able to assist us, on a part-time basis.
Discussion ensued and several projects were mentioned including developing a proposed trail system and parking lot for either the Doug James or Schults property and helping with Beaver Flood Trail grant management. All agreed Beaver Flood Trail grant management was a priority. Doherty thought this could be doable, Anderson will send him documents of grant proposal and plans for him to review as a start, so he can give us a quote for the work. Grant suggested a different construction method instead of helical piles, which could be easier and less expensive, though proposal would need to be approved by RIDEM.

Marc leaves @ 7:37

- Scalise residential compound: Windsor reported on a recent approved subdivision on Estes Rd which was 48 acres, 6 lots approved. It's an example of property we might have preserved and what could have happened to the Schultz property.
2. Funding and Grants: Beaver Flood Trail: update due 11/1/23
- Isa McGreevey from RIDEM looking for update, every 6 months. sent an email, with forms attached. Grant, Anderson and Russell will work on synopsis/status and get to DEM by end of month.

3. Subcommittees:

- Advocacy: Brushy Brook/Solar Projects

PB 10/18 approved Scalise project. Next Planning Board meeting is Nov 13, though there are 3 members currently only board. Comolli will be on Nov 13 agenda.

4. Friends/HLT:

- Pelloni – Final map in process, Parent resent data and files to Gina Fuller of the Southern Rhode Island Conservation District.
- Winter bond and Spring Events: Allana reported she reached out to David Gregg, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Natural History Survey, and he expressed interest in being the speaker. We are thinking sometime in January/February, still trying to come up with a centralized venue location.

5. Land Management and Stewardship

- Depot Square Spur Trail:

Grant walked trail, looking OK after current rain storm. Tree roots are exposed. DJ McCourgan recommended maintenance/cleaning out of ditch 2x/year.

• Russell reported that Merkel from Wild and Scenic flooking for payment info, still have funds left over for work on the property.

• Johnson reported record removal of paddle boat from Depot Square thanks to Hopkinton DPW & Police Department

- Beaver Flood Trail: Beavers and DEM Approval:

Brian Devoe contacted us via email, hiked Beaver Flood Trail, saw flooding, he is a licensed trapper through DEM and he offered to trap and harvest beavers. He also expressed interest in helping with Friends. Discussion ensued, different points of views were raised, does conservation easement allow for trapping? Gibbons will check. What precedence would be set. Nov-March season is the season for beaver trapping.

Hirst leaves @ 8:18

E. Old Business:

- Bond Meeting Scheduled: Tomorrow AM @ 10:30, Parent, Windsor and Grant are meeting with Brian Rosso, Town Manager, and Iz Monti , Director of Finance. Parent will begin presentation with powerpoint.
- Comolli Update: Preliminary application will be presented at Planning Board Meeting Nov 13.

F. New Business: None

G. Public Forum / Trustees Forum: Discussed December meeting schedule as 4th Monday is Christmas. December meeting will be Monday 18 at 6 PM.

H. Executive Session: None

I. Adjourn: 8:33 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Baker, Secretary