

**HOPKINTON LAND TRUST  
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**January 8, 2018**

**PRESENT: Marilyn Grant, Chair, Sarah Windsor, Vice-Chair, Carol Baker, Secretary, Mary Gibbons, Cyndy Johnson, Trustees. Tom Thompson, Associate, Harvey Buford, Hopkinton Conservation Commission.**

**ABSENT: Paul Wilcox, Edward Wood, Trustees**

**A. Call to order at 7:07 pm by Grant with 5 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.**

**B. Approval of previous meeting minutes: Minutes of December 11, 2017 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and approved as well as placing Executive Minutes under seal. Passed unanimously.**

**C. Accounting of funds: None**

**D. Reports**

**Chair:**

**Solar project approval/agreement, Southern Sky Solar Farm: Paperwork being reviewed by Southern Sky lawyer and HLT lawyer McCoy. Almost ready for signing.**

**MOU for Manitou Hassannash Preserve Update: MOU signed by Grant for HLT and given to Doug Harris from Narragansett Indian Tribe for their signature.**

**Narragansett Land Trust Contact: They reached reached out to us for guidance in purchasing property. Members walked Grills preserve recently with Grant and Thompson and chatted.**

**Bob Cat Cam: URI Research Associate Amy Mayers asked to install camera on Kenyon Crossroads property. Approved, with caveat that we are not responsible or damage to camera.**

**RI Land Trust Summit: Call for registration, summit is March 10 at URI.**

**Friends of the Hopkinton Land Trust: Grant reported that Anderson said they received \$1,000 from Ashaway Charitable Trust**

**Land Management and Stewardship:**

**Expansion of Depot Square / Brush Brook trail: Grant reported that Dan Harrington has delivered electronic survey to CJ Doyle for completion of DEM wetland permitting process.**

**Grills Preserve invasives removal: Grant reported that Mary Talbot from RIDEM got back to her with names of invasive removal contractors. Thompson suggested that we meet with contractors at the property and ask for proposals. Johnson offered to assist in**

**contacting contractors.**

**Mowing Contract for 2018: Anderson has contacted vendors from last year to get bids for this year's work.**

**Boundary Signs: Plans to post more property boundaries this spring, but we're running low on signs, need to order more.**

**Funding and Grants:**

**RIDEM Open Space Grant: No news on the big grant, small trail grants due in February.**

**E. Old Business: None**

**F. New Business: Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) ordinance proposal:**

**Buford shared a draft WECS ordinance from Hopkinton Conservation Commission (HCC) which will be discussed at a workshop with the Town Council on January 22. HCC is looking for conceptual support of this draft ordinance by the HLT ahead of the Town Council workshop. Purpose of the WECC is to encourage the viability of larger farming and agricultural operations within the Town by permitting, in addition to the principal agricultural activities, commercial scale wind energy conversion systems and to provide for a revenue stream for the Town for town budget and the HLT for acquisition and stewardship of their properties. Farm must be at least 50 acres, and would have to apply within 1 year of passage of ordinance. Johnson made a motion that the HLT supports the efforts of the HCC in developing a WECS ordinance to allow wind turbines in Hopkinton under the appropriate conditions. Seconded by Gibbons, passed unanimously.**

**G. Public Forum: Buford shared an event in support of the ongoing legal efforts to protect Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscape by Doug Harris on Saturday, January 27 in Northfield, MA.**

**H. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)] At 8:18 PM, Windsor moved that we go into executive session, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5), to discuss potential land acquisitions. Baker seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

**Return from Executive session at 8:49 PM**

**I. Adjourn: 8:49 pm**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Carol Baker, Secretary**