

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2018

PRESENT: Marilyn Grant, *Chair*, Sarah Windsor, *Vice-Chair*, Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Cyndy Johnson, Mary Gibbons, Paul Wilcox, *Trustees*, Harvey Buford, *Hopkinton Conservation Commission*, Tom Thompson, *Associate Trustee*, Dan Baruti, *public*

ABSENT: Edward Wood, *Trustee*

A. Call to order at 7:04 by Grant with 6 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

G. Public Forum: Moved up to accommodate member of the public.

Dan Baruti discussed revisiting the possibility of The Land Trust partnering with him to apply to the NRCS for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) component for an agricultural easement on part of his property (Map 7 Lot 66). Through this program, the NRCS offers financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing ALEs that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land. If the grant was successful, the NRCS would contribute 50% of easement value. Baruti is offering to contribute 25% of easement cost if HLT would commit to the remaining 25%. Baruti has been in discussions with Joe Bachand with NRCS who states there are no applicants currently for this program in RI. NRCS would need an appraisal first. Baruti's property is approximately 144 ac, he would like to reserve two 5 ac lots for his young children and get an easement on about 95 ac. The Land Trust had considered this property several years ago, but it was considered a back burner project. Discussion ensued as to the merits of this application, it was agreed that Grant would contact Bachand to discuss further.

Baruti, whose property abuts our Kenyon Crossroads trail and Thompson lumber property, described a large tree from his property that has fallen on top of the fence abutting our trail and asked for permission to go onto our property to remove the tree using Thompson Lumbers large piece of machinery. Permission was unanimously granted and thanks was given to him for taking care of this.

Baruti leaves at 7:25 pm

B. Approval of previous meeting minutes: Minutes of January 22, 2018 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections, as well as placing Executive Minutes under seal. Passed unanimously.

C. Accounting of funds: Grant reported following: RI Foundation Conservation Stewardship Endowment, \$723. No other reports.

D. Reports

Chair: Budget workshop with Town Council February 22 at 6:30 pm, Thursday.

Friends of the Hopkinton Land Trust: Grant reported that Anderson confirmed cocktail party fundraiser on June 23 at Rittling property on Tomaquag Rd.

Land Management and Stewardship:

Expansion of Depot Square/Brushy Brook trail: Buford reported that plans to submit to RIDEM for wetlands alteration permit almost ready. CJ Doyle in process of completing application for wetland permitting. Kiosk is moving along, Hopkinton Conservation Commission grant covering that cost.

Grills Preserve: Invasives removal. Anderson, Grant and Thompson revisited site to mark trees for removal. Will be removing Russian olive, bittersweet, and green and cat briar. Will be meeting with vendors in field in the near future. Grant noticed very wet area on some of the trails, and end of field past gate, perhaps we can put a load of gravel there and regrade it. Perhaps work for trail crew.

Pelloni Preserve: Buford spoke with Pelloni who is putting in house for his daughter on Diamond Hill Rd, only parking available would be on shoulder, not very user friendly. May need to speak with Tim Tefft at DPW. Recently GPS'd new trails and working on kiosk map at Cedar Knoll trailhead. Anderson ordered new boundary signs, need to be installed here.

Funding and Grants:

DEM Small Trail Grant: DEM announced OS grants, our request for \$400,000 to assist with the purchase of the Weeden property on Tomaquag Hill Rd was approved! Much enthusiasm and praise was expressed by all for all the hard work and negotiations that went in to the grant application.

Goals Review (quarterly) : None

E. Old Business: None

F. New Business: None

G. Public Forum (continued): Buford reported walked Gormley property, large trees have been dropped purportedly over our trails. Johnson and Grant said some had been there for awhile. Neighbor doesn't want cars getting in there.

Walked Kenyon Crossroads, foundations looking great, wondering if we would be interested in rebuilding foundations, perhaps put historical kiosk. Thompson will visit site and report back.

H. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)] At 8:07 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. Wilcox seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Return from Executive Session at 8:51 PM

I. Adjourn 8:51 PM

Respectfully submitted

Carol Baker, Secretary