

HOPKINTON LAND TRUST
TRUSTEES PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2018

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

ABSENT: Carol Baker, *Secretary*, Ed Wood, *Trustee*

A. Call to order at 7:05 by Grant and 5 trustees, and therefore a quorum, present.

B. Approval of previous meeting minutes: Minutes of March 12, 2018 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections, passed unanimously. Minutes of March 26, 2018 Public and Executive minutes were reviewed and approved and passed unanimously.

C. Accounting of funds: Grant reported following: Citizens Bank \$40,039.51, Websters \$181,304.51. Grant reports reimbursement of \$3000 for the Manitou Hassanach Parking Lot Small Trail Grant and legal costs from Tony Delvicario from Southern Sky in the amount of \$1300.

D. Reports

Chair. Land and Water Summit Report can be found on line, including discussion of solar projects.

RILTC is hosting 2 Monitoring Workshops at no charge on April 10 from 6:30-8:30 in Providence and on site in Smithfield on April 28 from 9:30-12:00. Grant will email everyone the information.

Friends of the Hopkinton Land Trust. Work continues on invasives removal at Mechanic Street.

Land Management and Stewardship:

Expansion of Depot Square/Brushy Book Trail: Wood sent email to Lisa McGreevey asking for a get together of people from DEM wetlands and DEM grant people. CJ Doyle is redoing the paperwork mapping the wetlands. Buford is writing a cover letter describing the history of the property, 'this was a RR bed'. that it is now covered with 90% invasives and no trees will be cut down for trail. There is a conference planned with CJ Doyle, Wood, Grant, Buford. DEM will be sending out wetlands person and possibly wildlife person. Also HLT can ask for an extension of the grant if needed, grant expires 9/22/18.

Grills Preserve invasives removal: Thompson spoke with 2 companies on invasives removal and both said that disposing of the debris on site would keep the cost down. He

stopped in at the Ashaway Fire Department, emailed Rich Guertin, Chief Assistant at the Fire Department and heard back HLT has tentative approval for burning debris on site in the fall as a training session for the fire department. Thompson reported receiving 2 bids for project from Sprigs and Twigs for \$2500/day (5 workers, excavator, chipper) and Sunset Design for \$1500/day (4 workers, excavator, skid steere and 2 chain saws). Motion raised by Windsor and seconded by Wilcox to hire Sunset Designs for 2 days of invasives removal on Grills Preserve for @\$1500/day. Motion passed unanimously.

210 Ashaway Rd. trees and barn. Thompson responded to call from Stephanie Sullivan, landowner adjacent to Grills Sanctuary. She reported concern over the white pines on HLT property that hang over her driveway and potential for injury to her family if they fall. The trees need trimming. Thompson spoke with John Gorman, owner of Silver Leaf Forestry to ask for cost of trimming branches, given quote of \$400 to trim and remove 10-12 branches. His company is busy with work from recent storms, but could fit in quickly.

Thompson and Sullivan then looked at garage that is adjacent to Sullivan property and on HLT land. It is in ill repair and needs to be torn down and removed. Sullivan agreed to remove the things she has stored there and the garbage inside and HLT will obtain bids for its removal, starting with David Benn.

Sullivan then talked with Thompson about piles of wood chips that have been left on 3 sides of field that is partly owned by HLT and partly owned by Fosters (who winter in Florida). Walk arranged for HLT members to observe and to look for lot lines on April 5 at 5:30pm, meet at Grills Sanctuary parking lot.

Funding and Grants: Youth Conservation League (YCL) looking for projects, grant application due June 22, 2018.

E. Old Business: N/A

F. New Business: Motion by Gibbons to approve tree work at 210 Ashaway Road by Silver Leaf Forestry for \$400 to trim and remove branches from over hanging white pines. Seconded by Windsor, passed unanimously.

G. Public Forum: Buford brought up condition at Grills Preserve parking area, very muddy with recent rains and possible need of topping with stone.

Buford reports that there is a way to date stone work.

Buford reported he attended 2 workshops in Massachusetts and will send around links on making financial arguments for value of preserving land.

H. Executive Session [pursuant to RI Gen. Law Ch.46 42-46-5a (5)] At 8:25 PM, Johnson 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. Unanimous vote to accept Thompson and Buford be present for Executive Session.

Return from Executive Session at 8:50 PM

I.Adjourn 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted

Mary Gibbons, Trustee