

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

January 11th, 2021 - Minutes

January 11th, 2021
5:30 P.M., via Zoom*

Call to Order: 5:30 PM

Roll Call: R. Anderson, R. Swanson, S. Paton, A. Fox, N. Gronstrom, T. Bietz, J. Davenport, S. Lacey (ex-officio), D. Madnick (ex-officio)

Others in attendance: J. Palmisciano, N. Carpenter, D. Poyer, C. Morgan (Richmond resident)

Approval of Minutes: R. Anderson motion to approve minutes as amended. R. Swanson 2nd. R. Anderson 2nd, Aye. N. Gronstrom, Aye. T. Bietz, Aye. J. Davenport, Aye. A. Fox, Abstain. R. Swanson, Aye. S. Paton, Aye.

Communications: S. Paton shared that she heard from the Stetsons; they were grateful for the recent trail maintenance. They informed her that they re-blazed the trails. S. Paton also received an email from the SK Land Trust; a possible tandem effort submitting for a trails grant to improve the Crawley Preserve parking lot. S. Paton voiced concern, as the RRPLT is hoping to submit a trails grant for other preserve needs. R. Swanson did not see an issue with submitting two applications. Brief board discussion on collaborating with South Kingstown; board is in agreement to move forward on the trails grant with SK Land Trust.

Approval of Invoices for Payment: R. Swanson shared that the town pulled out sales tax - town is tax exempt, but R. Swanson is not. Brief board discussion of matter. R. Anderson informed that the Town Hall has a sales tax exemption form. S. Paton will send it to R. Swanson.

Public Forum: J. Palmisciano shared information on compiling a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis requested by all commissions via the Town Council. N. Carpenter echoed J. Palmisciano statements, and also wished the board well on the trails grant application process. Brief discussion of trail grants and presenting the grant to the town council.

Old Business

1. Member Reports

- a. R. Anderson reported that he checked with URE on vests. URE is not sure when they will be in stock.
- b. R. Anderson reported that he checked with Scott Barber on beginning work on the Kenyon parking lot. S. Barber is not sure when, but it is in the works.

2. Town Planner Update

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

- a. S. Lacey shared that he received the RRPLT's letter review of draft comprehensive plan and they have made edits. He thanked the board for their input. The final draft should be available at beginning of February 2021.

3. Budget Update

- a. Brief board review of budget into current fiscal year.

4. Stewardship Subcommittee Update

- a. Brief board discussion of the signage at Scudder, which is in rough shape. Signage will be updated to reflect routed signs uniform with other preserve signage. D. Poyer will pursue getting a cost estimate and more information on signage to do the Chan and Scudder preserves. She will leverage that information to R. Swanson.
- b. D. Poyer shared that S. McBurney, volunteer steward, has been doing an excellent job taking care of the Crawley Preserve. T. Bietz suggested the idea of sending a handwritten thank you to volunteers/stewards that give their time and help.
- c. The Town Council approved that we move forward with the fully executed contract with Horsley Witten Group for Phase 1 of the design for the parking lot for \$10,125 at the Salia Preserve. Brief board discussion of including a public comment/ meeting virtually. It would serve as an opportunity to share ideas with the public in that vicinity for the parking lot. Will continue to discuss at the February meeting. And perhaps offer a public meeting in March. Send fliers to adjacent landowners as a means to make aware of the meeting.

5. Property Acquisition Subcommittee Update

- a. S. Paton shared she would like to regroup as a subcommittee and come up with a plan to reach out to property owners of priority parcels. Would be great to resume and come up with ideas for 2021/ 2022.
- b. T. Bietz inquired about the Beaver River study with J. Turek. S. Paton shared that it was a watershed grant/study. S. Lacey shared that a draft of the report should be ready by the end of Jan. 2021 and would know more soon.
- c. S. Paton provided an update on the Chan Preserve Class I Survey with Al DiOrio. A few members of the board met with Al and hiked the boundary of the Chan. S. Paton reported that there were beautiful rock formations, old structures, a swampy area, as well as oak and beech forest. A. DiOrio completed the work, and has submitted documentation. The board allocated to spend up to \$24,000. The board will get reimbursed for half of this cost when the open space grant is distributed.
 - i. R. Swanson motioned to approve S. Paton to pay the A. DiOrio invoice for the Chan Preserve Class I Survey.
 1. R. Anderson 2nd, Aye. N. Gronstom, Aye. T. Bietz, Aye. J. Davenport, Aye. A. Fox, Aye. R. Swanson, Aye. S. Paton, Aye.
- d. S. Paton shared the survey map of Chan with the board. Showed encroachment from an abutter on Fox Ridge. DiOrio will submit a full topographic map for the board to have on record. D. Poyer offered to walk the property and identify points of interest for a potential trail map. She also offered while out there to put up boundary markers.
- e. C. Morgan (Richmond resident, public) shared concern over logging on Old Mountain Rd. The board reviewed an aerial and determined it is the Langevin property. S. Lacey will follow up with C. Morgan, directly.

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

- f. R. Swanson brought up a landowner who visited about a potential land donation last year regarding a large acreage abutting one of the RRPLT's preserves. There has been no new information on this.
- 6. Communications / Outreach Subcommittee Update**
 - a. A. Fox and T. Bietz provided an update on the website and RRPLT's social media.
- 7. Boundary Reports for Properties**
 - a. Board members walked the Chan Property with A. DiOrio.
 - b. D. Poyer noted boundary reports serve as a stewardship monitoring report to get eyes on the property and make sure no illegal activities are going on, encroachments, etc.
 - c. A. Fox updated that the Stetson Preserve boundary report was completed and that Scudder was completed with N. Gronstrom. Reported that two bat houses are down, and that the silt fence has come down in a few areas.
 - d. D. Poyer completed the Bradner Preserve boundary report; preserve is in good shape, slight amount of blow downs, which she took care of. Still need to repair one of the small water crossings and do some hardening in another water crossing area.
- 8. Vote 2021 Officers**
 - a. S. Paton shared that she discussed with N. Gronstrom to take over the clerk position for A. Fox to do more outreach. Ayla will continue to serve as clerk and check back with N. Gronstrom on training her for clerk.
 - b. R. Swanson motioned to nominate the present slate of officers for 2021; S. Paton, Chair, R. Anderson, Vice Chair, A. Fox, Clerk, J. Davenport 2nd the motion.
 - i. R. Anderson, Aye. N. Gronstrom, Aye. T. Bietz, Aye. J. Davenport, Aye. A. Fox, Aye. R. Swanson, Aye. S. Paton, Aye.

New Business:

- 1. Vote on budget request for FY22**
 - a. Move forward with meeting the same request as 2020; No changes to the budget.
 - i. R. Anderson motioned to submit the same budget as 2020, R. Swanson 2nd.
 1. R. Anderson, Aye. N. Gronstrom, Aye. T. Bietz, Aye. J. Davenport, Aye. A. Fox, Aye. R. Swanson, Aye. S. Paton, Aye.
- 2. Presentation & discussion of Narragansett Trail Project**
 - a. D. Poyer shared the Narragansett Trail project aims, looking to Land Trust to connect and continue the trail by adding to the existing framework. The trail runs from Worden Pond to CT, via Yawgoog pond.
- 3. Review of conservation easement language & approved uses for Chan Preserve**
 - a. S. Paton shared conservation language. Allow DEM to access property to make sure we are following the grant guidelines. S. Paton will remove references to biking and horseback riding and send it to the DEM.
- 4. Discussion of land trust donation to support interpretive & accessible trail ideas.**
 - a. S. Paton shared that she received a phone call from a 90-year-old; thankful for the Richmond Heritage Trail. It is wheelchair accessible. She noted that the history on the signs were actually of her ancestors. She wants to donate \$1,000

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

but would like to know how the RRPLT plans to use the money. Board will contemplate ideas.

5. Discussion of the RIDEM trails grant

- a. S. Paton shared grant application requirements. D Poyer and J. Davenport offered to help draft.
 - i. R. Anderson motioned to approve moving forward with the trails grant application. J. Davenport 2nd.
 1. R. Anderson, Aye. N. Gronstom, Aye. T. Bietz, Aye. J. Davenport, Aye. A. Fox, Aye. R. Swanson, Aye. S. Paton, Aye.

6. SWOT Analysis and preparation for Town Council

- a. A. Fox and J. Davenport will help S. Paton create a presentation for the Town Council.
- b. Brief discussion of presentation and going through the RRPLT's SWOT.
- c. Brief discussion of the annual report S. Paton compiled. Board commented and approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Trustees may move to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(5), discussions related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes.

There was no Executive Session for the January 2021 Meeting.

Next Agenda:

1. Review Items for next agenda
2. Public Meeting for Saila Parking lot design.

R. Anderson motioned to adjourn, R. Swanson 2nd, R. Anderson, Aye. N. Gronstom, Aye. T. Bietz, Aye. J. Davenport, Aye. A. Fox, Aye. R. Swanson, Aye. S. Paton, Aye.

Adjourn: 8:13 P.M.

The public is welcome to any open meeting of the Town Council or its committees. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact the Town ADA Coordinator at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting at (401) 539-9000 x4