

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust
May 6, 2019
5:30 P.M. Town Hall

Call to Order: 5:38 P.M.

Roll Call: N. Hess (ex-officio), S. Lacey (ex-officio), J. Davenport, R. Anderson, R. Swanson, A. Fox, S. Paton, D. Poyer

Not Present: J. Beuth

Approval of Minutes: D. Poyer motioned to approve April 2019 Meeting Minutes. R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes. D. Poyer motioned to approve April 2019 Executive Session Meeting Minutes. R. Anderson 2nd. All ayes.

Communications: None.

Approval of Invoices for Payment: D. Poyer motioned to approve payment of \$1,300 to Newport Appraisal Company. R. Anderson 2nd. All ayes.

Public Forum: Nancy Grondstrum present for meeting. Interested in learning more.

Old Business

1. Member Reports

- a. A. Fox reported she had retrieved the "Friends of Land Trust" list from Liz Johnson. S. Paton updated the Town Council on Operation Spadefoot and they are pleased with the project. Cynthia Drummond, a reporter, wrote an article in Westerly Sun about the project. S. Paton also attended the Town Council Financial meeting. She confirmed the capital fund can be used for other expenditures such as appraisals, developing parking lots, engineering, and other expensive, but appropriate, projects. S. Paton updated the board on current account budgets.
- b. S. Paton notified the board that the tax insert for 2019 was coming due and the board agreed to do tax insert for 2019, as it has proven successful in past years.
- c. There was a quick discussion regarding newsletters. A. Fox will look into MailChimp, an online newsletter service, and report back to the board.
- d. There was discussion of House Bill 513 (canned hunting) and submitting letter to the bill's sponsors. J. Davenport agreed to draft a letter, and D.Poyer and S.Paton will review before sending.

2. Land Trust Brochure discussion

- a. A. Fox provided an update on the brochure. She is waiting to take some photos of the preserves with greenery and will continue to work of draft text.

3. Stewardship Committee discussion

- a. R. Swanson provided update on Stewardship Day. D.Poyer will add a new red trail blaze and update the yellow trail blazes at the Crawley Preserve. There was discussion of bringing in YCL for \$600. RRPLT must provide a match in the form of human help. The YCL would help with the installation of the "You Are Here" maps. D. Poyer motioned to apply for the YCL stewardship workday for a total of \$600 plus material expenses. R. Anderson 2nd. All ayes.

4. Board Membership discussion

- a. None.

New Business:

1. Scudder Preserve - Spadefoot Toad Project Update and Preparations

- a. S. Paton shared that "Operation Spadefoot" will be held May 13, 14, and 15 at the Scudder Preserve. A. Fox stated she will follow up with N. Karraker for updates regarding contractor and video/outreach services.

2. Review of Bradner Stewardship Day

- a. Discussed in "Old Business" under "Stewardship Committee".

3. Policy for Land Purchases

- a. D. Poyer suggested the idea of offering more than appraised value for properties. D. Poyer spoke with other organizations such as DEM, TNC, and other land trusts. DEM can go 10% above appraised value. Other land trusts explained that they can go above – but do so on a case by case basis. She suggested we draft language for policy. S. Lacey suggested the board add a list of special criteria the board looks for in a property and what the underlying density would be if developed. N. Hess suggested the board consider the idea of pocket parks as potential candidates. The board also discussed the consideration solar siting and how that could potentially affect sellers and RRPLT's efforts of acquiring land. The board discussed the idea of potentially ranking parcels at the June 2019 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO R.I. GEN. LAWS SECTION AS AMENDED 1956, CHAPTER 42-46-5(a)(2) SESSIONS PERTAINING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR LITIGATION AND CHAPTER 42-46-5(a)(5) TO DISCUSS ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

D. Poyer motioned to exit Executive Session. R. Swanson 2nd, R. Anderson-aye, A. Fox-aye, J. Davenport-aye, S. Paton-aye.

R. Swanson motioned to seal the May 2019 Executive Session Minutes. D. Poyer, 2nd A. Fox-aye, J. Davenport-aye, S. Paton-aye, R. Anderson-aye.

R. Swanson motioned to permit D. Poyer to offer between \$400,000-\$450,000 for a property discussed in Executive Session. D. Poyer will also contact the Narragansett Tribe to make sure they are on board with the purchase agreement. R. Anderson 2nd. A. Fox-aye, J. Davenport-aye, S. Paton-aye.

Next Agenda:

1. Review Items for next agenda

Adjourn: 7:45 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

Respectfully Submitted,

Ayla Fee
Clerk, RRPLT