

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

January 9, 2023 - Minutes 5:30 P.M.

This meeting was held in person.

2nd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall
5 Richmond Townhouse Rd
Richmond, RI 02898

Call to Order: 5:36 PM

Roll Call: S. Paton, A. Bryson, R. Anderson, S. Lacey (ex-officio), P. Damicis (planning board liaison), R. Swanson, J. Davenport

Absent:

Present: P. Stetson

Approval of Minutes:

1. December 5, 2022 Minutes. R. Anderson motioned to approve the minutes. A. Bryson 2nd. All ayes.

Communications: S. Paton reported that the Town has moved to keyless entry. S. Lacey explained the new building entry process.

S. Paton shared that the RI Land Trust Council is having an event on January 23rd - a "mini" land and water summit.

S. Paton was contacted by a Richmond resident who is interested in being on the board and will, hopefully, be attending next month.

Approval of Invoices for Payment: Approval of the invoice from Horsely Witten totaling \$160 for the Saila Parking Lot design. R. Anderson motioned to approve the invoice. R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes.

Public Forum: Peter Stetson reported on the mapping of the preserves.

*Note: Comments during Public Forum will only be heard and not acted upon by the Trustees. Section 42-46-6 of the Open Meetings Act, and Department of the Attorney General Advisory Opinions relevant to this item on any public body meeting agenda specifically prohibits the Board of Trustees from discussing, considering or acting on any topic, statement or question presented. The Board of Trustees may, if warranted, refer such matters to an appropriate committee, to another body or official, or post the matter for consideration at a properly-noticed, future meeting.**

Standing Updates and Reports:

1. Member Reports

- a. S. Paton received a contract from P. Stetson of his scope of work for mapping the preserves and kiosk poster design. Brief discussion of GIS mapping equipment and

file types.

2. Budget Update

- a. Review of Town budget. S. Paton shared the town budget and reviewed the Land Trust's allocations for the 2023 fiscal year.
- b. S. Paton shared that the land trust received 3 donations totaling \$100. S. Paton will send thank you cards.

3. Town Planner Report

- a. S. Lacey (ex-officio) shared the Public Scoping Meetings for the Wood-Pawcatuck Rivers Watershed Flood Protection Project scheduled for January 26, 2023. The public is invited to attend the meetings. D. Poyer offered to attend the meeting on behalf of the Land Trust.
- b. S. Lacey provided an update on Vineyard Hills, a proposed eight-lot conservation development located on Punchbowl Trail (AP 5E/5) abutting Crawley Preserve. P. Damicis led a discussion of ordinances and land conversion from forest to agricultural business.
 - i. Discussion of conservation development land conversion and potential amendments to existing ordinances – for next agenda.

4. Stewardship Subcommittee Update

- a. D. Poyer shared a signage quote for Scudder, Stetson, and Kenyon. D. Poyer shared a sign draft for the Scudder Preserve only. R. Anderson motioned to approve the design for signage at the Scudder preserve and allow up to \$200 in cost of making and installing the sign. R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes.
- b. Brief update on trail conditions, trees that might pose danger (leaning and need taking down) and potential Eagle Scout projects.
- c. D. Poyer recently walked the Banfield property and reported that the Nature Conservancy will be putting in about a 1.5 mile trail.

5. Property Acquisition Subcommittee Update

- a. D. Poyer shared that she spoke with Kate Sayles at RI Land Trust Council, about offering a land acquisition workshop. She suggested Northern Conservation District, perhaps put on the event and RRPLT hosts them for Richmond and interested residents.
- b. S. Paton updated on D. Millar's parcel inquiry about a conservation easement. S. Paton will continue the conversation with D. Millar and submit an application for a conservation easement with NRCS.

6. Communications / Outreach Subcommittee Update - None.

New Business:

1. Vote on officers for the 2023 year.
 - A. Bryson motioned to re-appoint S. Paton, Chair. R. Anderson, Vice Chair. Ayla Fox, Clerk. R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes.

R. Anderson motioned to enter Executive Session. R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The trustees may move to executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Law 42-46 5(5)

Discussion of Potential Acquisition of Real Estate for Conservation.

1. Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.
2. Discussion regarding communications with land owners and the potential acquisition or conservation of properties in Richmond.

R. Anderson motion to exit Executive Session. A. Bryson 2nd. All Ayes.

R. Anderson motion to seal the Executive Session Minutes. A. Bryson 2nd. All Ayes.

Next Agenda:

1. Review Items for next agenda - Ordinances and Land Conversion

R. Anderson motioned to adjourn the meeting. A. Bryson 2nd. All ayes.

Adjourn: 8:39 PM

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.