

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

March 6, 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: 5:33 PM

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

Absent: D. Poyer

Approval of Minutes:

1. February 6, 2023 Minutes - R. Anderson motion, J. Davenport 2nd. All ayes. A.Bryson - Abstain. R. Pouliot - abstain.
2. February 6, 2023 Executive Minutes - R. Anderson motion, J. Davenport 2nd. All ayes. A.Bryson - Abstain. R. Pouliot - abstain.
3. January 9, 2023 Executive Minutes - R. Anderson motion, J. Davenport 2nd. All ayes. A.Bryson - Abstain. R. Pouliot - abstain.

Communications:

1. Welcome new Land Trust Member: Raymond Pouliot
2. Land and Water Mini-Summit - S. Paton shared the details of an event, Saturday April 8, 9-1pm. R. Anderson motion to authorize 2 trustees to attend the Land and Water Mini Summit. R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes.

Approval of Invoices for Payment:

1. Approval of invoice for mapping services rendered by P. Stetson for \$275.00.
 - a. R. Anderson motioned to approve the invoice. R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes.
2. Approval of invoice for the sign ordered for the Scudder Preserve in the amount of \$312.50.
 - a. R. Anderson motioned to approve the invoice. J. Davenport 2nd. All ayes.

Public Forum: Eileen Burton present, interested in volunteering.

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 - None.
2. Budget Update - None.
3. Town Planner Report
 - a. Land Protection Subcommittee members invited to March 20, 2023 Affordable Housing Committee meeting.
 - b. Vineyard Hills Update - continued to March 28th, subject to redesign.
4. Stewardship Subcommittee Update
 - a. R. Swanson and R. Anderson reported Bradner trail improvements with the help of a few boy scouts.
 - b. Discussion of trail maps rendered by P. Stetson - discussed earlier.
5. Land Protection Subcommittee Update
 - a. Board review and vote on D. Millar conservation easement application submission (confirmation of authority to sign NRCS 1274 and 1275 application forms).
 - i. A. Bryson shared a few notes regarding the NRCS form and Land Trust responsibilities. Request to share a copy of the conservation template.
 - ii. A. Bryson motioned to authorize the RRPLT chair, S. Paton, to sign all documents related to the Entity Application for Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) entity-held easement program. R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes.
 - b. Discussion of 3 quotes for appraisal work and considerations of prices and timelines.
 - i. R. Swanson motioned for S. Paton to move forward with an appraisal by Newport Appraisal. A. Bryson proposed an amendment to the motion for S. Paton began drafting Purchase and Sales Agreement for the amount up to \$360,000 contingent on the Land Trust initiated appraisal and additional funding from the Zach Friedland Memorial Fund, R. Swanson accepted the amendment per A. Bryson. J. Davenport 2nd. All Ayes.
6. Communications / Outreach Subcommittee Update
 - a. Volunteer leadership and positions. A. Fox shared thoughts of employing the help of volunteers on subcommittees. A. Fox will email Eileen Burton. CC R. Swanson.

New Business:

1. Discussion of drafting a Town Council update and list of activities for sharing at future meetings. S. Paton shared her idea of a memo template for sharing with Town Council updates - one for regular session and executive session. P. Damicis shared that Town Councilors would benefit from some education on what the land trust does, as there is a misunderstanding among some councilors. S. Paton will draft a memo to the Town Council and share the draft with A. Fox and A. Bryson.

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.

Next Agenda:

1. Review Items for next agenda

J. Davenport motion to adjourn. R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes

Adjourn: 7:45 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.