

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust  
April 1, 2019  
5:30 P.M. Town Hall

**Call to Order:** 5:32 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:** R. Swanson motioned to approve March Regular Meetings. D. Poyer 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes.  
R. Swanson motioned to approve March Executive Session Minutes. R. Anderson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes

**Communications:** None.

**Approval of Invoices for payment:** None.

**Public Forum:** None.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Member Reports**

Discussion of Land and Water Summit.

Workshop topics included solar siting issues in Exeter and Richmond, safeguards. substations, and writing policy that would regulate solar siting. N. Hess shared that changes to siting; town gets revenue tax from energy sold back to grid. She stated that it is important to address ordinances before requests for solar applications are submitted. D. Poyer shared what happened in the Town of Johnston. Johnston Town Council required no buffer for solar arrays and the project has had negative impacts. Towns were caught off guard. Solar developers state that it is easier to put arrays on undeveloped land v.s. developed. The State of Rhode Island passed a few incentives for brownfield preference. N. Hess stated that electrical grid in urban and suburban areas does not support solar, making brownfield arrays a challenge. There is a stakeholder group working to tackle the electrical grid issue. S. Paton suggested we need to think about what prospective sellers are contemplating with land and solar and how that influences Land Trust acquisitions.

Other Land and Water Workshop topics included core forest areas; any forested area greater than 250 acres are very important, and GIS for Land Trust properties.

Other updates: The conservation and rare species database has been updated and is user-friendly.

### **2. Land Trust Brochure discussion**

No updates.

### **3. Stewardship Committee discussion**

Board discussion and task list creation on what each property needs regarding general maintenance and upkeep.

All properties: "You are Here" maps, boundary signs, install property name signs

Crawley: makeshift stream-crossing, trail maintenance

Bradner: add new trail, GPS, blaze, add to maps, ALL trails need re-blazing

Kenyon: trailblazing, wetland bog bridges, stepping stones, need a small parking area with water runoff control

Scudder: boundary posting, new signage

Salla - develop access, trail design, violation of trespassing issue needs attention

Stetson - none

Followed with discussion of how to coordinate with volunteers. Implement a monthly stewardship day; bring in volunteers, provide oversight on what tasks they do. Board decided "May 4, 2019" as RRPLT Stewardship Day at the Bradner Preserve. R. Swanson will make a task list. A. Fox will create a flyer and ask Karen Pinch to send it out to the town. A. Fox will check with Liz Johnson about the "Friends of the Land Trust" list.

#### **4. Board Membership discussion**

No updates

#### **New Business:**

##### **1. Scudder Preserve - Spadefoot Toad Project Funding**

S. Paton provided project background for J. Davenport. The Land Trust was approached by researchers about creating habitat on the Scudder Preserve. A grant has been secured from NRCS and Rhode Island Natural History survey is overseeing project. \$9,666 dollars, \$3,300, DEM has committed to help, about \$2,000 short. D. Poyer make a motion allocate up to \$2000 to spadefoot toad project. R. Swanson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes. The project will take place May 15, 16, and 17 of 2019. S. Paton said she would present to the Town Council so they are aware of the project. The Scudder Preserve will be the first property in RI to install spadefoot toad breeding pools. D. Poyer will write press release to the Town Council.

##### **2. Prospective Property Due Diligence Contract Idea**

A Fox explained the concept of a due diligence agreement between the Land Trust and a landowner interested in selling to the Land Trust. The agreement would prohibit the landowner from putting the property on the market during the Land Trust's initial property due diligence. S. Paton will check in with Rupert Friday to see if there is anything like this already in existence. S. Paton will also check with the Town Solicitor.

##### **3. Preserve Benches**

S. Paton received an inquiry about donating benches. Bradner and Crawley could use these. The interested person has been out to look at properties and identify a bench location and has continued the conversation with the Conservation Commission. There is a lot of support from the Town with this endeavor.

##### **4. Purchase of Projector**

D. Poyer motioned to allocate \$21 to purchase an adapter for the projector. J. Davenport 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes.

R. Swanson motioned to enter Executive Session. R. Anderson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>, R. Anderson-aye, A. Fox-aye, J. Davenport-aye, S. Paton-aye.

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

R. Anderson motioned to authorize D. Poyer and A. Fox to negotiate purchase of property discussed in executive session in conjunction with TNC, with up to \$350,000 in funds from capital expenditure account. J. Davenport 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes.

**Next Agenda:**

1. Review Items for next agenda

S. Paton motioned to adjourn. R. Swanson 2<sup>nd</sup>. All ayes.

**Adjourn: 7:19 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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ayla Fox  
Clerk, RRPLT