

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

April 3, 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:

S. Paton called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Roll Call: Present: R. Anderson, A. Bryson, J. Davenport, R. Swanson, S. Paton
Absent: A. Fox, R. Pouliot

Approval of Minutes:

1. March 6, 2023 Minutes

SUZANNE SHOULD HAVE NOTES ON MOTION, SECOND, DISCUSSION
Vote to approve as amended, all ayes, no opposed, no abstentions

J. Davenport made a motion to move discussion of 6a kiosk poster up in the agenda. R. Swanson second. All ayes, no opposed.

P. Stetson presented the current version of the poster kiosk he has been working on. D. Poyer (in attendance) has been working with P. Stetson on the posters. P. Stetson noted that he has already spent all the time that is allowed in his contract. If the work finishes now, P. Stetson would provide one kiosk poster for Kenyon and GPS tracks for trails in all land trust properties except for Saila and Scudder. Trustees provided comments on clarifying language around hunting access and requirements for all visitors to wear orange, as well as other permitted or prohibited activities. D. Poyer noted that she will look into printing options, including the types of materials available and the cost. D. Poyer also noted that she would read through the poster wording carefully and bring a final draft to the board for approval. P. Stetson asked if he should include interpretative trail markers on the maps. S. Paton advised that existing interpretive trails and markers were developed by the conservation commission and that the conservation commission has maps and brochures for the interpretive trails and markers.

D. Poyer asked how much it would cost for P. Stetson to make the rest of the kiosk posters. P. Stetson said \$300-400.

Communications: S. Paton to share an update on the Trails Grant status for Sails.

S. Paton shared that end date is extended through July 2025, but we still have not been approved to start the project. S Paton would like to do outreach to neighbors before the work starts but we need to know when it will actually start.

Approval of Invoices for Payment:

A. Bryson moved to pay invoice for \$125 for the work performed by Peter Stetson as described by Suzanne P. and D. Poyer; R. Swanson seconded.

All ayes, no opposed, no abstentions

Public Forum:

*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.**

No members of the public in attendance.

Standing Updates and Reports:

1. Member Reports –

D. Poyer will return the Bad Elf to the Rhode Island Land Trust Council.

2. Budget Update

S. Paton shared that nothing has changed in our budget categories. In our annual budget from the town, \$2159.15 remains to be spent by the end of the fiscal year at the end of June. S. Paton encouraged board members to think about what we need. R. Swanson asked if these funds can be used for materials for signs? S. Paton said yes. S. Paton also mentioned that the unrestricted account has \$14,273 that can be used for anything. We have \$20,468.63 in the land improvement account and \$556,618 in land acquisition funds. S. Paton noted that she will move the RRPLT documents to the google drive associated with the land trust gmail account so that the documents are more easily available to the trustees.

3. Town Planner Report - None.

4. Stewardship Subcommittee Update

D. Poyer noted that she has checked vernal pools but has not seen evidence of wood frogs. D. Poyer spoke to a community member who is interested in helping with trail stewardship. Trails are largely in good shape but we will need to get out again in summer when there is growth. S. Paton shared that there is trail work going on at the Banfield/TNC Beaver River Preserve.

5. Land Protection Subcommittee Update

A. Bryson and S. Paton to update the board on meeting with the Affordable Housing

Committee.

A. Bryson and S. Paton attended the meeting with the Affordable Housing Committee on March 20. At that meeting, S. Paton provided an overview of the Land Trust and relayed the Trust's support for the town's policy around conversation development. S. Paton and A. Bryson open a conversation with the Affordable Housing Committee on transfer of development rights (TDR). Affordable Housing Committee members offered the idea of "community land trust" through which affordable housing would be provided on the land trust property. S. Paton shared with the Trust that although the Trust has never considered buying a property with a house on it, perhaps the Trust could expand thinking about how you might use a property with a house on it. For instance, the Trust could do a minor subdivision and then donate the house to the Affordable Housing Committee or another suitable non-profit entity. A member of Affordable House Committee noted that there are ways that a TDR program can go wrong, and that clear rules must be in place around where and how development rights can be exercised. S. Paton noted to the Trust that the aquifer overlay district must be resolved before a TDR program could be development.

6. Communications / Outreach Subcommittee Update

Kiosk Poster Review with Peter Stetson. – moved up in the agenda and discussed as described above.

New Business:

1. Discussion of Land Trust priorities for 2023.

S. Paton opened a conversation around what larger discussion topics should we be putting on meeting agendas? S. Paton suggested a goal for the Trust to be systematic about what topics we discuss on an annual basis, for instance, should we review our property prioritizations every August?

S. Paton noted that another topic is resolving allowed and disallowed uses of properties. J.

Davenport agreed to finalize the review of all the conservation easements and management plans for our properties and summarize all permitted uses. S. Paton asked if we can shoot for June 5 to review land docs and allowed uses?

A. Bryson suggested that we should ensure that we review all the monitoring forms for all the preserves annually. We discuss this informally, but we should do this more officially.

S. Paton updated the Trust on the potential presentation to the Town Council and said that K. Pinch and S. Lacey recommended waiting until May after the budget process is done.

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. Swanson made a motion to move to executive session. A. Bryson seconded. All aye, no opposed.

****AFTER EXITING EXECUTIVE SESSION****

R. Anderson moved to seal executive session minutes.

R. Swanson second.

All ayes, no opposed.

Next Agenda:

1. Review Items for next agenda

Adjourn:

R. Anderson moved to adjourn; A. Bryson second.

All ayes, no opposed.

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.