

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

April 4, 2022 - 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. Bryson, R. Swanson, R. Anderson, J. Davenport

Absent: N. Gronstrom, A. Fox

Approval of Minutes:

1. March 7, 2022 Minutes
R. Anderson motioned to approve the March 7, 2022 Minutes. R. Swanson 2nd. A. Bryson - abstain. R. Swanson, S. Paton, R. Anderson, J. Davenport - aye.
2. March 7, 2022 Executive Session Minutes
R. Anderson motioned to approve the March 7, 2022 Minutes. R. Swanson 2nd. A. Bryson - abstain. R. Swanson, S. Paton, R. Anderson, J. Davenport - aye.

Communications:

1. Received winter report from URI - The Rhode Island Fisher Study
S. Paton received results of the URI fisher study. The research group set up a camera trap at one of our properties. They are monitoring at many sites around the state. They reported on findings from the RRPLT property.
2. Notified that there are tree stands at Bradner - contacted hunter - issue resolved.
A resident reported to S. Paton that they found two tree stands at the Bradner Preserve. S. Paton contacted the hunter permitted to hunt there. The individual reported that they had not gotten around to taking the tree stands down and they agreed to take them down. R. Anderson asked what kind of tree stands are allowable? S. Paton suggested an agenda item for the next meeting to review the hunter logs.
3. Received request for interpretive brochure for Crawley trail - contacted Conservation Commission.

A resident reported that they noticed the numbered signs at Crawley but they didn't know what they were for. S. Paton reported that the Conservation Commission is responsible for the documentation. The printed guide has been provided at the kiosk but copies run out. The Conservation Commission is working on QR codes that will link to the information.

Tyler Maikath from SK land trust reported that they noticed damage to the lower bridge. Several boards need to be replaced. Maikath asked when the RRPLT will be able to address this. R. Swanson reported that he would be able to fix the boards in the next few weeks. S. Paton offered that R. Swanson could purchase supplies for reimbursement under the Trust's previous approval of building supplies.

Approval of Invoices for Payment: None.

Public Forum: None.

*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. Virtual Risk Management Workshop

A. Bryson attended an information session for a virtual risk management workshop hosted by the RI Land Trust Council and the Land Trust Alliance. They have gotten funding to hire a consultant--Connie Manes from Connecticut--to lead a risk management program over 4 or 5 sessions. A. Bryson has signed up and paid; up to 5 trustees may also attend. S. Paton noted that the RRPLT can reimburse A. Bryson for the cost to sign up. J. Davenport and S. Paton said they would also attend. Bryson, Davenport, and Paton will coordinate to ensure that at least one trustee will attend each session. A. Bryson will determine whether slides and recordings will be available after the sessions.

A. Bryson noted that as part of their funding they can also do a tailored plan for individual land trusts. Land Trusts have to apply for this, and have to attend the workshop in order to be eligible.

A. Bryson said trustees who attend the workshops will report back to the full board.

2. Budget Update - none.

3. Town Planner Report - none.

4. Stewardship Subcommittee Update

a. Removed 'Preserve at Boulder Hills' signs from trail on the Saila Preserve

S. Paton mailed a certified letter to P. Mihailides informing him that Preserve boundary signs were placed illegally on the land trust property at the Saila Preserve. The letter stated that the illegally placed signs were removed. The letter also noted that the trail on the northern edge of the property is an unauthorized trail; the RRPLT did not create this trail and will not manage it. S. Paton reported to the board that we do have land trust markers on our side of the boundary.

S. Paton also noted that when she was taking down the signs, she noticed a new wide road along the eastern boundary of the Saila property on the Preserve side.

b. Saila trail project update from Engineering Firm

S. Paton noted that she has received an update from the engineering firm hired by the board to construct the parking lot and trail access at Saila. The firm has reached out to Scott Barber about upgrading the stormwater management at the end of Chelsea Farm Dr.

They are coordinating to make sure they are on the same page in terms of permitting.

They are also in touch with Ron Gagnon at DEM regarding wetlands permitting.

c. RIDEM trail grant update

S. Paton reported that we are still waiting for an award letter for the DEM trails grant. All the paperwork has been submitted.

d. Trail mapping update

D. Poyer, R. Swanson, and R. Anderson walked the boundary of the Kenyon Preserve using the Bad Elf. The border is marked pretty well; there were only a few corrections and no one noticed any encroachments on our property. D. Poyer noted an ATV track and suggested that the trust may want to drop a couple of trees across it to discourage use. R. Swanson suggested that the trust investigate whether the ATV track is actively being used before pursuing further.

D. Poyer, R. Swanson, and R. Anderson went back to Kenyon a second day to hike and map the trails.

D. Poyer walked the Crawley Preserve trails. She asked how the boundaries were determined. It seemed to her that one section of the red trail crossed the southern property line according to the boundary map determined by the land trust council. D. Poyer stated that she does not think the Land Trust Council map matches the survey that P. August did.

R. Swanson and R. Anderson are coordinating to do a boundary survey at Bradner on Tuesday morning.

S. Paton reported that she would do a boundary survey at Saila after Bradner is done.

D. Poyer reported that she has started drafting a management plan for the Stetson preserve. She has contacted a member of the Stetson family (Peter Stetson) to contribute something to the plan about why the family donated the property.

D. Poyer noted that she is not able to transfer ownership of the existing Dropobox where RRPLT files are kept and shared with the board. She noted we may need to create a new Dropbox so that it can be managed by a current trustee.

- e. Potential for naming of brook at Crawley and funding for a sign

D. Poyer noted that she has a friend who will create signs for the brook at Crawley. D. Poyer will paint the letters for the sign using our trail marking signs. She asked for help installing them.

D. Poyer also noted the bridge damage at Crawley and wondered whether it was due to an equestrian using that trail.

D. Poyer noted that a stringer may be damaged, in addition to a couple of boards.

R. Swanson can purchase supplies on the previously approved budget.

S. Paton will alert T. Maikath of our plans to repair the bridge.

D. Poyer is planning two walks at Crawley. A Sunday afternoon walk at 2:00 or 4:00 would include SK Land Trust and RRPLT board members.

She would also do a walk on Thursday May 5 for friends of the land trust.

A. Bryson asked how many people would be on that invite list.

S. Paton said that's at least 50 people.

S. Poyer said that if 10-20 people come that would be fine. D. Poyer will discuss the human history and the natural history of the Crawley Preserve.

5. Property Acquisition Subcommittee Update

- a. Potential discussion of land acquisition project in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and a local family in memoriam - deferred to Executive Session.

6. Communications / Outreach Subcommittee Update

- a. Earth Day Event - April 23

S. Paton reported that the Conservation Commission is planning an earth day event. Trash bags and clean up kits are available at the town hall.

She noted that the event is focused on road cleanup.

D. Poyer noted that trails are generally in good shape but roads really need attention.

- b. Volunteer Recruitment - LTC

S. Paton noted that the Land Trust Council can do volunteer recruitment. We will submit a list of friends of the land trust interested in volunteering. Perhaps the Land Trust Council could help us organize volunteers.

- c. General communications plan with potential volunteers
 - A. Bryson volunteered to contact the Land Trust Council to learn more about the program.

R. Anderson motioned to enter executive session
A. Bryson seconded.
All trustees present voted aye.

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 moved to leave executive session
R. Swanson second.
All trustees present voted aye.

R. Anderson moved to seal the executive session minutes.
R. Swanson second.
All trustees present voted aye.

R. Anderson moved to adjourn.
R. Swanson second.
All trustees present voted aye.

Next Agenda:

1. Review Items for next agenda

R. Anderson moved to adjourn.
R. Swanson second.
All trustees present voted aye.

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.