

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

July 10, 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

Called to order 5:39

Roll Call:

Present: A. Bryson, S. Paton, J. Davenport, R. Anderson, R. Swanson, ex-officio

S.Lacey

Not present: A. Fox, R. Pouliot

Approval of Minutes for the June 5, 2023 meeting:

A. Bryson moved, R. Anderson:

Approval of minutes for executive session for June 5, 2023.

Minutes were not distributed to board so approval will be tabled until next meeting.

A. Bryson moved to approve the minutes for the June 26, 2023 special meeting.

R. Anderson second.

All ayes.

J. Davenport moved to approve the minutes for the June 26, 2023 special meeting executive session.

R. Swanson second

Board voted to approve as amended: All ayes

Communications:

None

Approval of Invoices for Payment:

None

Public Forum:

No members of the public present.

*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 - RI Fisher Study report

Received report for the past winter on fisher casts on an RRPLT property.

Unfortunately, the team doesn't have funding to continue the study.

The research team thanked RRPLT for participating.

2. Budget Update - new fiscal year budget

TC approved requested budget of \$3750: \$3000 in stewardship; \$750 in operating/supplies.

S. Paton will confirm that we received \$15,000 for our land management/stewardship fund.

The land trust received one donation for \$25. RRPLT acknowledges their generous support.

3. Town Planner Report

S. Lacey reported that town received the final plan for the Tug Hollow conservation development. Needed to clarify management of stormwater detention basin; asked developer to clarify that it is the responsibility of the HOA. Once map has been recorded, open space will be conveyed to RRPLT. S. Lacey thanked the RRPLT and said he is very proud of what we've accomplished together. Board members thanked S. Lacey for sharing his deep planning expertise and professionalism and integrity.

A. Bryson asked about Tug Hollow property and documents related to drainage easements. A. Bryson says easement is defined, but not clear whose responsibility is it to manage the drainage. S. Lacey says that developer has been asked to update the plan to clarify. Town solicitor is ultimately responsible for reviewing this and approving. S. Lacey will leave a check list of key items for the new town planner that have to be done to finalize the development plan and land trust. All the improvements to the development are private and responsibility of the homeowners.

4. Stewardship Subcommittee Update

a. Saila Trail Grant

S. Paton says we were notified by RI DEM that we finally got the grant. We have two years to implement the grant.

S. Paton will talk with Horsley Witten to discuss the project, permits, etc.

We need to get an RFP out to solicit a construction firm.

A. Bryson asked when we should have public outreach about the plans?

Board members agreed that we should share the plan and rendering in an information session, prior to requesting final construction drawings and consider input we received.

R. Anderson suggested we post an upbeat sign that says "access coming soon." S. Paton suggested that H-W create a map or rendering, and that A. Fox create a sign.

S. Paton will ask H-W for a quote for a final design, rendering, and to provide project oversight.

b. Trail maintenance for all properties

Kenyon and Crawley are getting overgrown. S. Paton said we should plan a stewardship day. A. Bryson will reach out to Land Trust Council and see if they can help recruit volunteers to help with trail maintenance.

R. Anderson said there are two trees down over the trail, but they seem sturdy and not likely to fall and you can go underneath them.

R. Swanson says the trail rerouting we did on Bradner is working out well; you can't even see where the old trail went anymore.

5. Land Protection Subcommittee Update

a. Tug Hollow land donation

Discussed above

\*\*Land under discussion in exec session last time

Real estate agent said they were in negotiations with original buyers.

b. NRCS Millar update

S. Paton said that we heard from NRCS for the RCPP application. They are in the final stages of approving the projects. Next step would be to get appraisal of property and get a boundary survey. Then we need to draft the easement. Millar

Moved to authorize S. Paton to solicit bids for appraisal and property survey for the conservation easement for the Millar property according to guidelines from NRCS, contingent upon funding approval from NRCS.

We need a meeting to discuss and agree on the parameters before we can authorize going ahead with an appraisal.

R. Swanson withdrew the motion.

S. Paton is continuing to send out letters to landowners of properties of interest for preservation.

6. Communications / Outreach Subcommittee Update

a. Continued discussion of kiosk language and signage.

S. Paton has not yet updated the kiosk document and didn't have a new version to share at this meeting.

New Business:

1. Tax Bill Inserts 2023

Trustees agreed to take a pause on the tax bill inserts and develop a more comprehensive outreach and engagement strategy, especially targeted to existing donors to RRPLT. Reassess next year.

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

If we have received RCPP funding for Millar easement, discuss parameters of easement, appraisal, and property survey.

Have a subcommittee meet with P. Stetson to finalize language for kiosks. Or S. Paton will talk with A. Fox about making those updates.

S. Paton will print updated maps for all the properties.

S. Lacey reviewed the status of the Transfer of Development Rights program and encouraged the land trust to work with the planning board and town to continue development of this program. Phase 3 design guidelines are not in place. But if APOD (aquifer protection overlay district) goes forward, we can discuss with planning zoning what is the receiving and the giving areas of town. What's the density of potential sites, what are the development rights that can be donated, how do we monetize the density bonus?

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 7:25

R. Anderson, second R. Swanson

All ayes.

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.