

Preservation Land Trust

Richmond Rural

January 4, 2016
5:30 Town Hall

Call to Order (5:34)

_____ Present: A. Webb, R. Anderson, D. Poyer, J. Beuth, S. Paton, E Johnson, D. Stetson (ex-officio)

Not Present: N. Hess (Planning Board, Ex-officio), D. Johnson (Conservation Commission (ex-officio)

Approval of Minutes

_____ MOTION: To approve regular minutes from December 2015- J. Beuth, R. Anderson 2nd

All Ayes

MOTION: To approve Executive session minutes from December 2015- J. Beuth, R. Anderson 2nd

All Ayes

Communications

Received a refrigerator magnet from Al Diorio, Christmas card from Print Craft, a tax stuffer donation, and
a thank you letter from the Rhode Island Land Trust Council.

Approval of Invoice(s) for payment- None

Public Forum-

Justin Shappy- A Boy Scout from troop 1 in Richmond to present an Eagle Scout project.

Preston Simpkins- A Boy Scout from troop 1 in Richmond to present a Scout project.

Sheldon Pasqualini- A Boy Scout from Troop 1 in Coventry to complete his communications Badge, by attending an open meeting.

Old Business

1. Scout projects-

Justin Shappy proposed to build some bat houses for the land trust properties. He wanted to help rebuild the bat populations in the area.

He was looking to help bats survive the winter months. He researched different bat house, chamber houses (dual houses) and feels he found some good spots on Land Trust properties.

S. Paton explained that bats nesting natural habitats are, loose bark on trees, crevices in trees- if we supplement with bat houses they need to be south facing with lots of sunlight, near open fields so they can forage and catch insects, and roost in the forest.

Justin needs to finish this project by his 18th birthday on February 2, 2016. He suggested a double box per pole, with about 6 boxes total.

Research was done by Justin's dad, and he found that bats will change houses depending on the temperature inside. They plan on painting the two houses different colors and see which the bats prefer, or give them a choice. J. Beuth stated if bats have a few options they will move from one to another for whatever reason. S. Paton discussed placing the bat houses near natural habitats and seeing which houses are used by the bats, and moving them accordingly.

D. Poyer suggested putting the houses on a pole, to help defray predators. D. Stetson suggested checking with S. Barber (DPW Richmond) to see if he had poles or

supplies that could be used in this project. D. Poyer suggested going to UBS for donations to the project.

It was agreed that S. Paton would be in charge of this project. Justin will e-mail her directly and she will approve all aspects of this project.

Preston Shappy also proposed a bat house project to the board.

J. Beuth suggested he build some wood duck nesting boxes- nesting for birds, dense swamps so the don't overlap building wildlife boxes.

Preston agreed to build the wood duck nesting boxes for his scout project. J. Beuth suggested that Preston do some research on wood duck habitat. They like to be near

streams, tree cavities or pretty much any where, ducklings jump pretty far. Swampy areas are perfect and the Saila, Crawley and Bradner properties offer some nice areas.

J. Beuth agreed to oversee this scout project, approving the box design and any areas the boxes are to be put. Preston will be in direct contact with J. Beuth for this project.

D. Poyer gave the Scouts a quick overview of Map Geo. She showed them how to find the wet lands and find the Land Trust Properties.

D. Poyer also suggested to the scouts a trail project on the Kenyon Preserve. Trails are planned there for 2016.

2. Member Reports-

D. Stetson let the board know that the RI Foundation Sentential Community Grants are due on February 12. The grant is for every city and town in RI, looking for improvements to the

towns open space, library and schools, playground areas, parking areas, art work. She was checking to see if any large projects were needed for the Land Trust. The Heritage trail

project done by the Conservation Commission is looking to get this funding. The Land Trust does not have a larger project at this time.

S. Paton reported she has made contact with Chariho Vo-Tech in regards to building some Kiosks for Land Trust properties. It was well received and the teacher will put the projects

out to his students next semester as a new class is starting.

3. Saila Property-

A. Webb, G. Whitney, E. Johnson marked the Saila border with Roy Najecki. They ran short on nails and A. Webb will return to finish the posting. Many thanks to Roy for his help.

The Pukas property has had a lot of tree cutting, but the border is respected.

D. Poyer reported that the chain mystery is still unsolved. No one has claimed responsibility for leaving the chain in the Land Trust box. The property is secure with a chain and locks

at this time. D. Poyer will check with Karen Pinch to see if anyone is missing the chain.

A. Webb was wondering where the parking area was to be. It has been discussed it will be on the property, in a small clearing already there. D. Poyer discussed the access road needs to be

built and will contact S. Barber to see when they can meet to survey what needs to be done. S. Paton is concerned about cutting down a lot of trees, which will be flagged prior to anything being done.

4. Stewardship projects-

Tabled until the next meeting

New Business

1. Election of officers-

D. Poyer, Chair A. Webb, Vice Chair, E. Johnson Clerk

D. Poyer agreed to one more year.

Motion to re-elect the current officers- J. Beuth, R. Anderson 2nd

All ayes

2. Capital Improvement Projects-

D. Poyer, purchasing of properties for 2016 open space acquisition
500,000 (2016) 500,000 (2017) 250,000 (2018) 250,000 (2019)

Add in \$20,000 for the driveway and parking areas on properties making the budget \$520,000

3. Land And Water Summit-

D. Poyer reported that March 19, 2016 will be the summit this year. D. Poyer will be doing a presentation, environmental education program.

R. Anderson and E. Johnson would like to attend. They will fill out the application and get to D. Poyer as soon as possible.

4. Land Trust Days

August 2016 into September 2016

Treasure hunt at the Crawley Preserve- people enjoyed it.

A. Webb will check with Rupert to see what other Land Trusts do.

Owl Prowl- was well received but no owls participated!

Next Agenda

_____ Review items for February 2016 Agenda

Motion to Adjourn: A. Webb, R. Anderson 2nd.

Adjourn (7:10PM)

Respectfully submitted:

_____ 

_____ Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk RRPLT