

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

February 6, 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: 5:34 PM

Roll Call: S. Paton, R. Anderson, J. Davenport, R. Swanson, S. Lacey (ex-officio), A. Fox, D. Poyer
Absent: A. Bryson

Approval of Minutes:

1. January 9, 2022 Minutes - R. Anderson motioned to approve the Minutes. R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes.

Communications: S. Paton shared a request for a conservation easement on a Richmond resident's property. Board discussion about conservation easements and selection criteria, potential concerns to consider. S. Paton will give the property owner information for the NRCS conservation program.

Approval of Invoices for Payment: Approval of the invoice for Scudder signage.

D. Poyer shared that the signage quote (originally estimated at \$200, came to a total of \$240. Signage will be delivered to R. Swanson for installation.

R. Swanson motioned to increase the budget of the signage from \$200 to \$300. J. Davenport 2nd. All ayes.

Public Forum: Two residents were present: Dennis Erkan and Eileen Burton. Both are interested in joining the board and are sitting in on the meeting to learn more about what the Land Trust does.

*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** - none.
2. **Budget Update** - S. Paton received a \$25 RRPLT donation and will send a thank you.

3. **Town Planner Report** - none.
4. **Stewardship Subcommittee Update** - R. Swanson shared that a bridge in need of repair was replaced at the Bradner preserve. S. Paton shared a tip she received of a gray F150 dumping an owl carcass at the Crawley Preserve. S. Paton reported it to the environmental police.
5. **Land Protection Subcommittee Update** - S. Paton has had ongoing conversations about the Friedland Memorial Fund and finding a property to protect for the fund. One property (heron rookery property) that was being considered has been put on hold as the current owners plan to keep it as is. R. Swanson suggested continuing the conversation, with accepting it as a donation to protect from future degradation. J. Davenport suggested changing the subcommittee name from "Land Acquisition Subcommittee" to "Land Protection Subcommittee".
 - i. R. Swanson motioned to review the Policy and Procedures and change the name. R. Anderson 2nd. All ayes.

S. Paton shared that J. Davenport had an idea to reach out to the affordable housing committee to work together on development projects.
6. **Communications / Outreach Subcommittee Update**
 - a. P. Stetson presented the Saila Kiosk Sign Design and Map. Discussion, review, and revisions noted.

New Business:

1. Discussion of Conservation Development Ordinances and Land Conversion; conversion of existing forest into agricultural use.

Board discussion about ambiguity around agricultural use of open space in a conservation development and conversion of forest to agricultural use. conservation designs and using the benefits of conservation design to also reap economic benefits from agricultural operations .

R. Anderson motioned J. Davenport to draft a letter to the planning board, asking that they clarify the language in the ordinance on conservation design on behalf of the Land Trust. And authorized S. Paton, Chair, to submit that letter to the Planning Board. R. Swanson 2nd. All Ayes.

R. Swanson motioned to enter into Executive Session. J. Davenport 2nd. All ayes

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 motioned to exit Executive Session. R. Swanson 2nd. All Ayes.

R. Anderson motioned to seal the Executive Session Minutes. J. Davenport 2nd. All Ayes.

J. Davenport motioned to authorize S. Paton to get an appraisal for the property discussed in Executive Session. R. Swansons 2nd. All ayes.

Next Agenda:

1. Review Items for next agenda

R. Swanson motioned to adjourn. R. Anderson 2nd. All ayes

Adjourn: 8:07 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.