

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust
February 11, 2020
5:30 P.M. Town Hall

Please note: Any matter listed on this agenda may be acted upon by RRPLT

Call to Order: 5:33 P.M.

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

Not present: N. Hess (ex-officio)

Approval of Minutes: R. Swanson motioned to approve the January Minutes as amended. R. Anderson 2nd. All Ayes. R. Anderson motioned to approve the January Executive Session Minutes. R. Swanson 2nd. All Ayes.

Communications: S. Paton shared that the University of Rhode Island Environmental Science and Management department working with the Land Trust Council on GPS layer data for Land Trusts in the state. A student at URI asked if we wanted our boundary maps included. S. Paton will inquire about cost share. There is also a class at URI focusing on how to do baseline documentation reports (BDRs). A component of the class requires completing a BDR . There is a cost share of \$250. S. Paton will inquire about completing one for the Chan Preserve and report back at the next meeting.

D. Poyer was notified by the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association of wetland and water resource violations occurring at an abutting Land Trust property (Stetson Preserve). The Nature Conservancy (another abutter) was also notified of the violations. There was consensus among all parties to notify DEM compliance staff. D. Poyer will notify DEM on the Land Trust's behalf.

S. Paton shared the request for proposal for contract work at the Saila Preserve. There was a brief discussion of gate access/vehicle access.

Approval of Invoices for Payment: None.

Public Forum: Logan McCue, a member of Troop 1 Richmond BSA, attended. Logan is working on his Eagle Rank ***, shared his desire to complete a project for the Land Trust. There was discussion on focusing efforts at the Kenyon Preserve; create a sign, re-establish the trail system, build a kiosk. Logan will continue discussions with the Stewardship Committee and develop a plan and schedule.

Old Business

1. Member Reports

- a. J. Beuth shared a summary of hunting data for 2019-2020; at Salia, 5 permits were issued and the preserve was hunted 32 times. 36 deer were seen. 3 bucks and 1 doe were harvested. Types of hunts were archery and muzzleloader. Brief discussion of buck/doe take policy for the state. Brief discussion of J. Beuth managing our hunting program moving forward after his resignation from the Land Trust board.

2. Town Planner Updates

- a. S. Lacey notified the board that the Horsley Witten Group was awarded the contract for the Beaver River study. The study will include a spatial analysis and identify priority action guidelines to improve the quality of the watershed. This study could have a direct effect on land acquisitions for the Land Trust. S. Lacey also shared that the Conservation Commission and project partners held a kick off meeting. The project is on track to be completed and presented to the public in January, 2021. The project and report, once completed, will allow the town to apply for future grant funding.

3. Annual Property Evaluation Updates

- a. D. Poyer completed the Bradner Evaluation and will complete Crawley. The Oviatt Property has not been done. D. Poyer will email and connect A. Fox with Candace Oviatt to complete a walk-through of the property.

4. Board Recruitment Updates

- a. S. Paton had a conversation with Nancy Grundstrom, a board prospect. She is excited and interested in joining the board and will be pursuing the official Town Council process in March.
- b. Brief discussion of J. Beuth resigning from the Board. The Land Trust would unanimously like to thank J. Beuth for all of his hard work, dedication, knowledge and expertise that he has volunteered to the board and the Town of Richmond. The board hopes to continue working with J. Beuth in a volunteer capacity monitoring the Land Trust's hunting program.

New Business:

1. Election of Officers

- a. R. Swanson made a motion to approve the current slate of officers; S. Paton, Chair, R. Anderson, Vice Chair, A. Fox, Clerk. J. Davenport 2nd. All ayes.

2. Submission of Budget Request

- a. Discussion of current account balances. S. Paton will reach out to the Town Solicitor to clarify terms of capital expenditures.

3. Property Acquisition Update - tabled to next meeting.

4. Property Acquisition Procedure Revision and Land Trust Regulation Revision

- a. Board discussion of proposed amendments to Land Trust Regulations Draft by town solicitor. S. Paton commented on "shall hold a meeting once per month". S. Paton suggested changing the statement to "schedule a meeting once per month or as needed."
 - i. J. Beuth motioned to approve the Land Trust Property Acquisition Procedure and Regulations draft, R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes.
- b. Board review of Land Trust Property Selection Criteria and Acquisition. S. Paton suggested language needed to be drafted to clarify land donations and tax write-offs.
 - i. J. Beuth motioned to approve the Land Trust Property Selection Criteria and Acquisition with amendments. R. Anderson 2nd. All Ayes.

5. Old Mountain Purchase

- a. S. Paton shared a letter to the Town Council regarding Old Mountain Property purchase. Board suggested adding the date and time of Council support.

6. Land and Water Summit 2020

- a. Brief discussion of attending the 2020 Land & Water Conservation Summit. S. Paton shared the different topics to be presented.
 - i. J. Beuth motioned to approve up to 4 attendees of the Land and Water Summit on March 7. R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes.

7. Discussion of D. Poyer's relationship to the board

- a. Board consensus that D. Poyer will serve on behalf of the Land Trust with the board's discretion.
- b. Establish an acquisition sub-committee - tabled to next meeting.

Motion to enter Executive Session, R. Swanson. R. Anderson 2nd. S. Paton -aye, R. Anderson - aye, D. Poyer - aye, A. Fox- aye, R. Swanson - aye, J. Davenport - aye, T. Bietz - aye, J. Beuth - aye

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO R.I. GEN. LAWS SECTION AS AMENDED 1956, CHAPTER 42-46-5(a)(2) SESSIONS PERTAINING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR LITIGATION AND CHAPTER 42-46-5(a)(5) TO DISCUSS ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES.

R. Swanson motioned to exit Executive Session, R. Anderson 2nd. S. Paton -aye, D. Poyer - aye, A. Fox-aye, J. Davenport - aye, T. Bietz - aye, J. Beuth - aye

R. Swanson motioned to seal the Executive Session Minutes, R. Anderson 2nd. S. Paton -aye, D. Poyer - aye, A. Fox- aye, J. Davenport - aye, T. Bietz - aye, J. Beuth - aye

J. Beuth motioned to adjourn, J. Davenport 2nd. S. Paton -aye, R. Anderson - aye, D. Poyer - aye, A. Fox-aye, R. Swanson - aye, T. Bietz - aye

Adjourn: 7:37 PM

Next Agenda:

1. Review Items for next agenda

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

Adjourn: 8:11 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

Respectfully submitted,

Ayla Fox
Clerk, RRPLT