

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

March 7, 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: 5:36 PM

Roll Call: S. Paton, N. Gronstrom, R. Anderson, R. Swanson, J. Davenport, A. Fox, S. Lacey (ex-officio)

Absent: A. Bryson

Others in attendance: D. Poyer

Approval of Minutes:

1. February 7, 2022 Minutes

R. Swanson motioned to approve the February 7, 2022 minutes, R. Anderson 2nd as amended. All ayes.

Communications:

1. Discussion of "soliciting trust in the community."

S. Paton shared an email from the Town Clerk - RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust. If we have any projects for their organization. They offer help in beach clean up, garden tending, building playgrounds, etc. She will respond to the email and let the organization know more about what needs the RRPLT has.

2. Green Energy Bond Update. Bill # H7123, Article 5, Question 3; Seems to be in alignment with pro-brown field solar development but does not address the issue of forest and farmland converted into solar development. RRPLT will draft a letter stating protection of forests and farmland, and incentives for brownfield development. S. Paton will plan to draft a letter with A. Bryson if the bill has not been voted on yet. Further discussion and research determined the bill is believed to have been passed.

Approval of Invoices for Payment:

1. January 2022 Invoice from Horsley Witten Group for \$450.00 re: Saila Parking Lot Design

R. Anderson motioned to approve payment of \$450 to Horsley Witten Group,

R.Swanson 2nd. All ayes.

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. S. Paton shared the results of the RI Land Trust Conservation & Stewardship Survey; a snapshot of Land Trusts throughout RI.
2. Budget Update
 - a. Donation received - \$100. N. Gronstrom to write a thank you card and add to the supporter list.
3. Town Planner Report
 - a. S. Lacey shared that the Amended 2021 Comprehensive Community Plan was adopted February 15, 2022. It is currently in the process of becoming a certified state document. This certification provides benefits to the Town of Richmond; when state organizations operate in Richmond, they have a document to respect the Town's goals, policies, and processes.
 - b. Brief review of the Comprehensive Community Plan Implementation Program amongst the board.
4. Stewardship Subcommittee Update
 - a. Naming of the stream at the Crawley Preserve

D. Poyer shared there is an unnamed stream at the Crawley Preserve. She suggested naming it after Sandy Poirer - the first chair of the RRPLT. Sandy was instrumental in getting the RRPLT going and acquiring the first properties. D. Poyer suggested calling it "Sandy's Brook". The Board is in agreement and discussed ordering signage; 3 for "Sandy's Brook", and will add it to the map. D. Poyer will research signage and report back on price.
 - b. Reading and discussion of the draft letter to the abutting landowner at the Saila Preserve.

A. Bryson drafted a letter, S. Paton shared with the Board. Brief discussion and board feedback.
 - c. Update on the Saila Preserve Trail Grant
 - i. S. Paton updated the board on receiving the grant and now has to go through official approval.
 - d. Coordination of property walks / annual monitoring reports
 - e. Coordination of trail mapping - Tuesday the 14th of March
5. Property Acquisition Subcommittee Update
6. Communications / Outreach Subcommittee Update
 - a. D. Poyer to share the idea of recording Crawley Preserve History via walks and video
 - i. D. Poyer has a deep historical and ecological understanding of the Crawley Preserve and would like to preserve that once she's no longer an active part of Richmond. She thinks it would be nice to do a series of walks for groups; land trust; South Kingstown and Richmond. Town Council (invite SK as well) and other boards of Town, Friends of the Land Trust, and General Public - for the

first week in May. Sunday afternoon, Tues/ Thurs evening, Saturday afternoon, weather permitting. She will also coordinate with A. Fox to record the information via video.

- ii. S. Paton shared a magazine article detailing the ecological significance of the newly acquired Banfield property from TNC along the Beaver River. A. Fox will link to the TNC magazine article of Banfield estate, if available online.

R. Anderson motioned to enter Executive Session]. Davenport 2nd. All Ayes. 7:10 PM.

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 motion to exit Executive Session, R. Swanson 2nd. All ayes. 7:30 PM

R. Anderson motion to seal the Executive Session minutes. J. Davenport 2nd. All ayes.

Next Agenda:

1. Review Items for next agenda
 - Formalization of D.Poyer walk and talk plans

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

Adjourn: 7:31 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.