

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

March 1st, 2021 - Minutes

March 1st, 2021
5:30 P.M., via Zoom

Call to Order: 5:35 PM

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

Others in Attendance: Pierre M. Duval

Approval of Minutes: R. Swanson motioned to approve the February 1, 2021 minutes as amended, R. Anderson 2nd, Aye. N. Gronstrom, Aye. T. Bietz, Aye. J. Davenport, Aye. A. Fox, Aye. R. Swanson, Aye. S. Paton, Aye.

Communications:

1. S. Paton was contacted by a woman regarding a 7-acre farm property in Richmond. the family is trying to preserve the land. S. Paton sent her information for farmland preservation in the state, including a contact at NRCS. The woman hasn't responded yet. Location of the parcel is unknown.
2. S. Paton received an email on February 7, 2021, from Aiden Pickett, boy scout from Matunuck RI, working towards Eagle Scout. He is a resident of Richmond and interested in completing a project for the RRPLT. S. Paton shared that the board would welcome his help and would discuss project ideas with the board.

Approval of Invoices for Payment:

- a. R. Swanson motioned to approve the first Horsley-Witten Group payment installment for \$4,248.73 on the approved contract with Horsley Witten Group for a total of \$10,125.00 as partial fulfillment for Phase I of the Saila Preserve parking lot design. J. Davenport 2nd, Aye, R. Anderson 2nd, Aye. N. Gronstrom, Aye. T. Bietz, Aye. J. Davenport, Aye. A. Fox, Aye. R. Swanson, Aye. S. Paton, Aye.
- b. R. Swanson submitted an invoice for \$356.99 for electric chainsaw purchase. J. Davenport motioned to approve invoice for payment, Aye, R. Anderson 2nd, Aye, R. Swanson, Aye. N. Gronstrom, Aye. T. Bietz, Aye. J. Davenport, Aye. A. Fox, Aye. R. Swanson, Aye. S. Paton, Aye.

Public Forum: None.

Old Business

1. Member Reports

- a. Hunting Logs
 - i. S. Paton shared the 2020-2021 hunting season:

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1. Bradner, 1 doe.
 2. Saila, 2 doe, 2 buck
 3. Other species seen: bobcat, adult fisher, coyotes
 4. All hunters (including some youth hunters) affirmed their appreciation of preserve use for hunting.
 - b. Character Sculpture
 - i. S. Paton shared the RI Land Trust Council's development of a game for RIWalks -- the creation of character structures - powder coated steel. Asked if we are interested. Trustees unanimously would like to participate.
 1. Selected "Blueberry" for Crawley. Bradner, "Hay Scented Fern" and "Skunk Cabbage". Stetson "Acorn", "Beech", "White Oak" or "Black Oak". Will work with RILTC on final selections and installment.
 - c. R. Anderson walked the Kenyon Preserve and noted two trees down. And on another walk noted 12 deer.
- 2. Town Planner Update**
- a. S. Lacey provided an update on the Tug Hollow conservation development and land donation as well as a brief background for new board members. the developers will be applying in a week or so. S. Lacey will report when new information becomes available next month.
 - i. R. Swanson noted the potential name of the preserve, which is typically derived from the surname of the land owners, but the name "Tug Hollow" is unique. He suggested this is something for the Trustees to think about when naming the Tug Hollow land donation.
- 3. Budget Update**
- a. S. Paton provided a correction to reports from previous meetings. The RRPLT currently has three accounts. The donation account, our annual budget approved by the Town Council (\$3,750 this year), and the bond funds which are for land acquisition expenses. We had also requested \$15,000 in the town's capital improvement budget this year to fund public access improvements (parking areas and trails) but these funds were not approved by the Town Council as previously reported. So, although we had planned to charge the Horsley-Witten invoice to that account, we will need to use one of the other accounts. S.Paton asked our treasurer to charge the first invoice to the bond funds rather than use our donations at this time.
 - b. S. Paton shared that a member of the public who contacted the RRPLT for a \$1,000 donation had a conversation with the Conservation Commission and discussed contributing funding for a project planting trees along the Beaver River.
- 4. Stewardship Subcommittee Update**
- a. Brief discussion about signage for the preserves.
 - b. S. Paton, R. Anderson, and S. Lacey, met with the encroaching abutter of the Chan Preserve regarding the log and mill operation at his residence. The RRPLT had requested he remove all logs from the Land Trust property by March 31, 2021. But the abutter asked for more time so both parties agreed to April 30, 2021 to have everything moved from the site. The RRPLT signed the agreement, notarized it, and mailed two copies; one to the abutter. Nothing has been returned from the abutter yet.
- 5. Property Acquisition Subcommittee Update**

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- a. S. Paton was contacted by the director of land conservation with SKLT. SKLT is working with a landowner adjacent to one of our existing RRPLT properties. The parcel is about 20 acres. The landowner is interested in talking to the Land Trusts about conserving the parcel.
- b. S. Paton reported that she has been authorized to sign the conservation easement with RI DEM for the new Chan property on behalf of the Town. This was authorized via a signed 'certificate of authority' written by the Town solicitor, and approved by the Town Council at their meeting on January 11, 2021. The easement is a requirement for the open space grant.

6. Communications / Outreach Subcommittee Update

- a. None.

New Business:

1. RI and MA land trust conference

- a. S. Paton shared the Land and Water Summit event for 2021, which will be a joint event with Massachusetts. Briefly went over the scheduled workshops. S. Paton suggested Trustees review the schedule and let her know what sessions they are interested in attending. Interested Trustees will let her know by the 4th of March.
 - i. R. Anderson motioned to authorize S. Paton to register up to 4 people for the Land and Water Summit, spending up to \$200. R. Swanson 2nd, Aye. R. Anderson 2nd, Aye, R. Swanson, Aye. N. Gronstom, Aye. T. Bietz, Aye. J. Davenport, Aye. A. Fox, Aye. R. Swanson, Aye. S. Paton, Aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Trustees may move to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §42-46-5(a)(5), discussions related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes.

There was no executive session for the March 2021 RRPLT meeting.

Next Agenda:

1. Review Items for next agenda

- a. Follow up on character sculptures.
- b. Update on Management plan for Chan.

R. Swanson motion to adjourn, R. Anderson 2nd, Aye. N. Gronstom, Aye. T. Bietz, Aye. J. Davenport, Aye. A. Fox, Aye. R. Swanson, Aye. S. Paton, Aye.

Adjourn: 7:27 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