

Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

June 16th, 2021 - Minutes

June 16th, 2021
5:30 P.M., via Zoom*

Call to Order: 5:36 PM

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

Not present: S. Lacey (ex-officio)

Others in Attendance: Pierre M. Duval, Antonia Bryson, Cynthia Drummond, Erin Liese, Richard Nassaney

Approval of Minutes:

1. April 9, 2021 Executive Session Minutes
 - a. R. Anderson motioned to approve the April 9, 2021 Executive Session Minutes, J. Davenport 2nd the motion. A. Fox - aye, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Swanson - aye, N. Gronstrom - aye, R. Anderson - aye.
2. May 3, 2021 Minutes
 - a. R. Anderson motioned to approve May 3, 2021 Minutes, as amended. J. Davenport 2nd the motion. R. Swanson - abstain, A. Fox - abstain, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye. N. Gronstrom - aye
3. May 3, 2021 Executive Session Minutes.
 - a. R. Anderson motioned to approve the May 3, 2021 Executive Session Minutes. J. Davenport 2nd the motion. R. Swanson - abstain, A. Fox - abstain, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye, N. Gronstrom - aye

Communications: None.

Approval of Invoices for Payment:

1. Horsley-Witten invoice for work completed in May 2021, for \$896.25
 - a. R. Anderson motioned to approve payment. R. Swanson 2nd. R. Swanson - aye, A. Fox - aye, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye, N. Gronstrom - aye
 - b. Brief trustee discussion of billing cycles regarding the contract with Horsely Witten and RRPLT 2020 and 2021 fiscal years.
2. Reimbursement for S. Paton: printing of Chan Preserve boundary survey (2 copies) at Staples, \$39.31.
 - a. R. Swanson motioned to approve reimbursement to S. Paton, J. Davenport 2nd. R. Swanson - aye, A. Fox - aye, S. Paton - abstain, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye, N. Gronstrom - aye.

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Public Forum:

Antonia Bryson introduced herself to the trustees; she is appointed as the town representative for the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic stewardship council. She expressed interest in collaborating on appropriate council-land trust initiatives or projects. There was a discussion of “conservation inventory”; a mapping project similar to the Beaver River study, and providing insights for low impact development improvement in the towns.

Richard Nessany introduced himself and voiced concerns regarding different recreation uses on Land Trust properties. He proposed the idea of creating different trails for different users. S. Paton thanked him for his concerns and ideas and shared that the trustees are currently reviewing property management plans and their recreational uses. The board is in the process of determining what the best uses would be for each parcel. S. Paton proposed holding a broader public meeting. R. Nessany suggested clearer messaging regarding recreational uses as it seems the public is confused.

J. Davenport suggested reaching out to A. Bryson on uses in the broader area, on other parcels that might offer a more suitable environment for a particular recreational activity. S Paton suggested the same about reaching out to the town’s conservation commission.

Erin Liese introduced herself as the new town clerk. Richmond is her hometown. She briefly shared that it would be prudent for the Land Trust to keep mindful of funding sources and their stipulations as they may limit what is allowed on acquired parcels.

S. Paton asked for an update on hybrid approach to meetings. E. Liese shared updates regarding the governor's executive order, and stated that it might not directly affect the RRPLT at this point in time.

**To participate, use the "raise hand" icon at the bottom right side of your screen, or, if you are using a phone, press *9. The moderator will tell you when it is your turn to speak.*

*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 Town Council from discussing, considering or acting on any topic, statement or question presented. The Town Council 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.**

Old Business

1. Member Reports

- a. Open Meetings Act - general update and training
 - i. J. Davenport, N. Gronstrom, A. Fox attended. J. Davenport shared the concept and problem of holding a walking quorum = shouldn't be communicating as a group outside of meeting.
 - ii. R. Anderson met with R. Friday and installed the “Post Oak” creature at the Crawley Preserve. S. Paton suggested posting this update on Facebook. A. Fox will post.

2. Town Planner Update

- a. None.

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3. Budget Update

- a. Discussion of Final Purchasing for FY21
 - i. S. Paton shared a budget update; \$825.54 to be spent before the end of June. Discussion of uses; orange vests restocking, buck slips inserts.
 - 1. R. Swanson motioned to authorize R. Anderson to approach URE outfitters to purchase orange vests, not to exceed the money left in the budget. J. Davenport 2nd the motion R. Swanson - aye, A. Fox - aye, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye, N. Gronstom - aye.
 - ii. S. Paton shared an update on the check from RI DEM for ½ of Chan Property. S. Paton shared that the title attorney needs to the record deed, title, conservation easement, and boundary line agreement at the town hall. Once recorded, a check can be released for reimbursement.

4. Stewardship Subcommittee Update

- a. Saila property trail mapping, eagle scout project, and trails grant discussion.
 - i. S. Paton shared that A. Picket's project was approved and that he is planning on building trails and a kiosk in Saila during the fall of 2021. In the meantime the board will need to layout where the trail will go. R. Swanson suggested the more people present to help layout the better.
- b. Kenyon property parking area update and discussion
- c. Crawley property coordination with South Kingstown Land Trust - will be hosting a walk.
- d. Discuss training schedule for the GIS field application for boundary surveys - J. Davenport will attend.

5. Property Acquisition Subcommittee Update

- a. Consideration of accepting approximately 19 acres of donated open space as related to a pending four-lot conservation development located on Tug Hollow Road, AP 1D/12.
 - i. R. Anderson motioned to accept the 19 acres of donated open space as related to a pending four-lot conservation development located on Tug Hollow Road, AP 1D/12 upon approval of the subdivision. J. Davenport 2nd the motion. R. Swanson - aye, A. Fox - aye, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye, N. Gronstom - aye.
- b. Update of appraisal status for properties of interest
 - i. S. Paton does not have an appraisal at the current time. Made aware of several parcels approaching other organizations. Wanted to bring the other parcels before the board before further pursuing the appraisal. Only one bid came in from an appraisal firm. Three bids are needed in order to select a firm.

6. Communications / Outreach Subcommittee Update

- a. Consideration of tax bill inserts for 2021 and insert text revisions.
 - i. N. Gronstrom shared statistics on last year's inserts and other ideas for reaching out to the town's residents.
 - 1. R. Anderson motioned to do the tax bill inserts for the 2021 year. Swanson 2nd the motion. R. Swanson - aye, A. Fox - aye, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye, N. Gronstom - aye.

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- b. Consideration of purchasing “thank you” vests and cards to replenish empty stock.
 - i. Voted on in Budget Update.
- c. Consideration of printing updated trail maps and other informational guides for kiosks.
 - i. Wait on cards, trail maps. Board will reconsider for next year.

New Business:

S. Paton shared that T. Bietz has resigned from the board. S. Paton thanked T. Bietz for his time and efforts.

S. Paton received an anonymous donation of \$1,000. S. Paton shared that the donor would like to see the funds be used for habitat restoration along the Beaver River.

1. Discuss potential for hosting a Land Trust Days event; August 21- October 17, 2021.
 - a. Discussion of ideas and postponing to July’s meeting.
2. Discussion of management plan status and potential updates for all properties, including approved public uses and conservation easement restrictions.
 - a. S. Paton listed the preserves with management plans. Board agreed to review existing management plans and report back to J. Davenport via email with comments. S. Paton will send the plans to board members.

J. Davenport motioned to move into executive session. R. Anderson 2nd. R. Swanson - aye, A. Fox - aye, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye, N. Gronstom - aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The trustees may move to executive session pursuant to gen. laws 42-46-5(a)(5) discussion related to the acquisition of real property for public purposes adjacent to protected open space.

1. Discussion of potential property acquisition adjacent to protected open space in the Town of Richmond that is being considered by other conservation organizations that reached out to the RRPLT.

R. Anderson motioned to exit executive session. J. Davenport 2nd. R. Swanson - aye, A. Fox - aye, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye, N. Gronstom - aye.

R. Anderson motioned to seal the executive session minutes, J. Davenport 2nd. R. Swanson - aye, A. Fox - aye, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye, N. Gronstom - aye.

R. Anderson motioned to authorize S. Paton collaborate with other conservation organizations on the purchase of a property in Richmond and contribute up 50% of purchase price OR not to exceed \$202,000. J. Davenport 2nd. R. Swanson - aye, A. Fox - aye, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye, N. Gronstom - aye.

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Next Agenda:

1. Review Items for next agenda
 - a. Review management plans summaries - restrictions and allowable uses.

R. Swanson motioned to adjourn. R. Anderson 2nd. R. Swanson - aye, A. Fox - aye, S. Paton - aye, J. Davenport - aye, R. Anderson - aye, N. Gronstom - aye.

Adjourn: 8:21 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