

# Richmond Rural Preservation Land Trust

## July 12th, 2021 - Minutes

July 12th, 2021  
5:30 P.M., via Zoom\*

**Call to Order:** 5:35 PM

**Roll Call:** S. Paton, R. Anderson, S. Lacey (ex-officio), D. Madnick (ex-officio, planning board liaison), J. Davenport, A. Fox

**Not Present:** R. Swanson, N. Gronstrom

**Others in Attendance:** Cynthia Drummond

### **Approval of Minutes:**

1. June 16, 2021 Minutes
  - a. J. Davenport motioned to approve the June 16, 2021 Minutes as amended, R. Anderson 2nd. S. Paton - aye, R. Anderson - aye, A. Fox - aye, J. Davenport - aye.
2. June 16, 2021 Executive Session Minutes
  - a. R. Anderson motioned to approve the June 16, 2021 Executive Session Minutes as amended, J. Davenport 2nd. S. Paton - aye, R. Anderson - aye, A. Fox - aye, J. Davenport - aye.

**Communications:** S. Paton received public notice of a hearing (scheduled for July 13, 2021) for a 4 lot minor subdivision with the Richmond Planning Board. S. Lacey shared that the developer is planning to create 4 new lots; 2 acres in size each. Each lot would have its own well and septic for a 3 bedroom home.

S. Paton received an email from a landowner on Chelsea Farm Dr concerned about a new trail but turns out it was not the land trust or land trust property.

S. Paton announced that the Rhode Island Land Trust Council has appointed a new director: Kate Sayles.

**Approval of Invoices for Payment:** URE outfitters for vests \$659.00. Vests are on order.

S. Paton shared a bill for \$840 from Attorney Soloveitnik's firm from Chan Property acquisition legal services, already approved payment fby the trustees at a former meeting.

**Public Forum:** None.

*\*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.*

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*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. R. Anderson talked with S. Barber about the Kenyon parking lot installation. It has not been completed yet. S. Barber is too busy at the moment to begin work on the parking lot.

### 2. Town Planner Update

- a. S. Lacey is working with GIS and MapGeo representatives and wants to know if the land trust has any tasks that would require such services. He suggested the Trustees think about such tasks and let him know if they have ideas.
- b. S. Lacey shared the Rhode Island Transfer of Development Rights Manual. He will be working on a draft for the town. Idea has been an interest in the town for 20 years. Concept: cities and towns are able to create incentives for development and redevelopment and to discourage development on lands targeted for conservation.

### 3. Budget Update

- a. S. Paton shared that the title attorney was able to record all documents for Chan and that the reimbursement check for \$235,000 was received and deposited into the capital account.

### 4. Stewardship Subcommittee Update

- a. S. Paton shared the training for GIS bad elf was a success; can create trails and update trail maps with more accuracy.
- b. S. Paton shared that the skunk cabbage "creature" has been installed at the Bradner Preserve.
- c. S. Paton had a conversation with M. Colasante, abutter to the Chan Preserve, has removed all debris from land trust property.
- d. S. Paton, R. Swanson, and N. Gronstrom mapped a new trail at the Saila Preserve. She described features along the new trail. Trail to be installed September 2021. There are plans for a work party in September for a weekend to help the Eagle Scouts cut the new trail in.
- e. R. Anderson shared that the South Kingstown Land Trust will be scheduling a walk at the Crawley Preserve, Thursday at 9 AM, to check for down trees, etc.

### 5. Property Acquisition Subcommittee Update

- a. S. Paton has had a few conversations and left messages, but no new updates to share regarding the properties of interest. S. Paton expressed that she will try to get on the Town Council agenda for August to keep the council abreast of what parcels the Land Trust is looking at and to provide a general update.

### 6. Communications / Outreach Subcommittee Update

- a. None.

## New Business:

1. Discussion of management plan status and potential updates for all properties, including approved public uses and conservation easement restrictions.

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- a. S. Paton led a discussion of the following preserves:
  - i. S. Paton provided an update on the Chan Preserve: conservation easement held by DEM. The management plan allows passive recreation; hiking, snowshoeing, bird watching. Wheeled vehicles prohibited due to extensive wetlands and cultural sites. Trails have not yet been created; any changes to the management plan need to be approved by the State of Rhode Island DEM. Hunting and trapping are prohibited except where identified in the management plan. S. Paton suggested the Trustees review the site and see if it would warrant hunting and/or trapping.
  - ii. A. Fox provided an update on the Stetson Preserve. There is currently no plan on file. The previous landowner requested to be a part of the management plan discussion if and when one is developed, as they abut the property and help maintain it.
  - iii. R. Anderson provided an update on Kenyon's management plan: trails will be open to pedestrian and equestrian use only. The previous landowner sold it with the stipulation that he is the only one allowed to hunt the property.
  - iv. J. Davenport provided an update on the Crawley Preserve: conservation easement has been held with TNC since 2003. It was purchased with a state open space grant. Conservation easement is extensive to protect property forever from any activity that is prohibited. One can't build, dig ditches, mine, remove plants, dump, etc. No snow mobiles, no vehicular, mechanized vehicles - powered or not. No bicycle riding, except for when approved by TNC. Any change to the use needs to be with their permission and SK land trust. The Land Trust has the right to permit hiking and horseback riding on existing and new trails. Hunting is not allowed. S. Paton found the management plan while in the meeting and Trustees will review.

### **Next Agenda:**

1. Review Items for next agenda
  - a. Continue discussion for management plans and public uses.

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

### **Adjourn: 7:00 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.

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