

Bonnet Shores Land Trust
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 29, 2021
Meeting held at the Community Center

The meeting of the Land Trust was called to order by George Monaghan, Chair, at 7:00 PM.

Those in attendance included Trustee's Mary Flynn, Arthur Hardy, Stephen Puerini, Clerk Lenny Mercier, Chair George Monaghan and Council liaison Bill DelGizzo. Salvatore Loporchio attended via zoom.

Chairperson George asked for a moment of silence for David Stenmark, who recently passed. Dave was very involved with the Land Trust.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the October meeting were approved. Moved by Mary and seconded by Stephen. All were in favor.

Old Business:

Report on progress of Nature Trail behind Community Center

Dave Black was introduced. Dave is willing to help with GPS mapping and mapping of plants for the Nature Trail. His background is in Environmental Science and is on sabbatical. The trustees were excited for the extra help with the trail. Bill DelGizzo asked Mr. Black if he would be interested in helping with mapping of the Watershed and Mr. Black said that he has some background in this work and would help. Terry Duffy also has had experience with this and would be a good person to talk with. Bill said that it would be good to know and understand where all the water comes from, to the pond. Mr. Black was clear that he has no expertise in Land Use Planning and that his love and experience is more into mapping of plants.

Land Acquisition Committee

Steve reviewed his report that he submitted on the Property Acquisition Committee Report. Report is attached. There are three properties that he updated the Trust on, one who had been paying taxes on for 85 years on property that could not be developed. He spoke with Narragansett Town Manager James Tierney, about the forgiveness of delinquent taxes so we could acquire the properties and Mr. Tierney will get back to him. He plans to speak with Lisa Dibello and our tax collector to formulate a list of delinquent taxes in Bonnet.

Report on Mapping

Arthur reported that he and George continues to work on the mapping of all of our properties. They have found that the town has consolidated many of the properties and numbering is a bit different. They have made progress.

What we have is approximately 90% accurate. Some paper roads are not paper roads. Stephen mentioned that some are encroaching on properties of the Land Trust and the Paper Roads. The Land Trust needs to come up with a plan on contacting individuals that are encroaching and requesting them to not do this. An example of this might be a swimming pool that is built on the property line which would be an issue in the future with setbacks. We need to make everyone aware that this is not acceptable. Carolyn DiLeo mentioned that it is very important to identify the paper roads and those abutters should be notified that there should be no encroachments. Stephen brought up that we are still looking for documentation from the original deeds turning over the properties to Bonnet from the Belton Corporation.

Fundraising Discussion

Bill DelGizzo mentioned that he has spoken with someone about the Dock at Camden Landing and what it would take to make it bigger or to extend it with a floating dock to allow for better access.

URI Watershed Information

Mary introduced Elizabeth Hern from URI, who will be testing the water quality of Wesquage Pond beginning this Spring. Testing will take place April through October. Carolyn mentioned that beginning the Spring there will be an e-blast of everything that is going on within Bonnet. The goal would be for a weekly notification that could include the water testing results. Steve Danuszar's committee on communications will be following up on this.

New Business:

Possible taxation on property transfers

While not on the agenda Stephen Puerini asked if we might consider a small tax being established for each transfer of properties. There was discussion but no action was taken. Discussion will follow in the future. We have nothing in our Charter, etc at this time.

Land Trust Council of RI

George brought up a request for our Land Trust to join the Land Trust Council of RI for an annual fee of \$150.00. This would allow us to have the opportunity of using them as a resource. Mary moved and Arthur seconded for our Land Trust to join the RI Land Trust Council for a cost of \$150. All were in favor of joining so George will take care of this.

Public Comments:

We were asked if meetings could be held with voting via zoom. Presently no but hopefully this will change opening the opportunity.

Tony Lopino mentioned that the tax rate is set via the mill rate.

Next Meeting

Meetings will continue to be held on the last Monday of the month, 7:00 PM at the community center. There will not be a meeting in December. Next meeting will be Monday, January 31st.

Adjournment: Mary moved and Arthur seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM, all were in favor.

Len Mercier, Clerk