

Bonnet Shores Fire District Land Trust Meeting

Monday 9/26/22 @ 6:30

Bonnet Shores Community Center

130 Bonnet Shores Rd,

Narragansett, RI 02882

Call To Order

Although the Meeting was scheduled for 6:30pm, the Meeting was not called to order by the Chair, Mary Flynn until 7:00pm due to a lack of a quorum. Those in attendance were Mary Flynn, Chair, Arthur Hardy, George Monaghan, Clerk Anita Langer, Council Liaison Bill Delgizzo. Stephen Puerini and Salvatore Laporchio were absent.

Approval of Minutes

The Meeting Minutes from the 8 /26/2022 were not approved due to some members who did not review the minutes therefore approval was tabled to next meeting.

Old Business

Report of Trails Committee Dedication for the Tails Opening was held on Saturday August 27, 2022. The opening Dedication was well attended by approximately 65 Residents of the District. There was a great article on the opening on the Front Page of the Narragansett Times.

Report of Land Acquisitions Committee Steve Puerini was not present to report however he sent Mary 2 emails with his updates. Mary read the emails to the committee:

First Item: Steve spoke to Attorney Martha Day regarding the process for Donations. She said there were many possibilities that could result in minimal and not so minimal expenses. Steve is going to test the water with an Individual who is very eager to make a donation of his land to the BSLT. Martha Day will try to streamline the process and develop a template for all future donations.

Second Item: Steve asked about the Land Trust Charter and how it could be amended. Martha Day suggested that the Land Trust look into a Not- for- profit 501-C-3 Status. She made the suggestion that the Land Trust seek an Atty or a CPA for State and Federal Laws which would protect the integrity of the Land Trust in perpetuity. Further investigation will be conducted later in the meeting.

Steve also contacted Jim Tierney about the status of the Letter he sent last month regarding identifying Town Owned Properties within the BSFD and whether there was a possibility the

Town would donate these lands to the BSLT. Jim Tierney, the Town Manager, stated that it was of low priority due to the time it would take to research Town owned Lands in Narragansett. Further discussion ensued as to how to approach the Town and look into this further.

Wesquage Pond Watershed Sampling Program Chair Mary Flynn emailed Elizabeth Heron (URI Watershed) and Jessica Bishop (who was collecting the water samples this year) to see if there were to be more samples collected this year. It was unclear if there were to be more samples collected by year's end.

Update on Watershed Plan David Black submitted the plan to DEM in August. He had not received comments for several weeks but had recently been contacted by DEM. Mary emailed Dave who reported he hopes to have the Plan completed by the end of October 2022.

Update on criteria for "use" of Land Trust Land Discussion centered around the Use of Land permitted on Land Trust owned Lands and Liability to the Land Trust and the community in allowing certain functions to occur on the Land Trust Property.

Mary reported she was asked to attend a meeting on 8/30/22 with Laurie McCarthy, Carolyn DiLeo in person and Mark Gilooly and Anthony via Zoom. The discussion centered on the current Rental Fees charged to use the Community Building. Those present agreed that the current Rental Fees were likely too low. Laurie was going to look into the daily cost of the Community Building. Mary received from Laurie today that the daily cost of the Community Center was estimated at \$345.15 per day. Discussion centered around raising the Rental Fees for BSLT Building and Land for different events. She was also looking into the Rental Fees that the Town of Narragansett Charges for Narragansett Buildings/Venues for various Events.

Discussion on being Self-Funded Mary suggested we wait on any discussion of self-funding until the "Use "of Land Trust Land is complete. Anita Langer mentioned that the Trustees need to go to the original Charter (1991) to make sure all discussion and land use is consistent with the original Charter. 1992 Revisions of the Land Trust Charter do not change the original purpose of the Bonnet Shores Land Trust. They were just amendments made to the original BSLT Charter.

Retention Pond Inspection Mary emailed Jim Tierney on 9/20/22 requesting that the Town inspect the Retention Ponds that border the Fire District on Boston Neck Rd. These Retention ponds which were inspected by the Town when they were initially constructed. These Retention Ponds affect the level and content of Wesquage Pond and the surrounding Land Trust Property. Mr. Tierney had not replied and Mary again called the Town Manager's Office and left a message.

New Business

Charter Committee Anita Langer, who was the Vice Chair of the BSFD Council at the time the Bonnet Shores Land Trust was State Legislated stated that it might be prudent to have an Atty

review the Land Trust Charter to look into the “Land Use” as stated in the Original Charter (1991) to make sure the Land Trust trustees are upholding the purpose of the Land Trust as they are entrusted to follow.

Arthur Hardy made the motion to hire an Attorney to look into the BSLT Charter – 1991 and 1992 and look into the “uses” that are allowed under the existing Charter and report back to the BSLT Trustees. George Monaghan seconded the motion. The vote was called. The motion carried with Mary Flynn, Arthur Hardy and George Monaghan voting in the affirmative of the Motion (3-0).

Signage for Land Trust Properties Mary was having difficulty in finding a Sign Maker who could make the signs for Land Trust Property to identify the Lands for the Public. She will continue to pursue this and ask the South Kingstown Land Trust if they had any suggestions.

Public Comment

Paula Childs asked who was in charge of opening the Breachway. She has asked the BSFD to help in the flooding of Wesquage Pond but nothing has been done. She noted that the Pond and the Culverts are actually owned by the BSLT. She was concerned that the culverts were blocked with sand and that the Pond and the Breachway were BSLT Lands and she felt the Land Trust should be dealing with this. Bill Delgizzo reported that the BSFD Chair has entrusted the Bonnet Shores Beach Club to do this work. Ms. Childs was surprised to hear that the Beach Club was in charge of the Breachway and did feel this was appropriate.

It was discussed that the Land Trust should look into the level of the pond and reach out to the Town to Open the Breachway since this is just not a BSFD Problem alone. The problem seems endless - Water accumulates, goes into the Retention Ponds that the Town has created and ends at Wesquage Pond where the culverts fill with sand and the main Culvert on Bonnet Point Rd is at too high of a level to empty out into the ocean. Arthur Hardy commented that this problem will not be solved until the Bonnet Point Culvert is below the level of the pond.

A question was asked about the BSFD Website. Mary reported on the BSFD Website. She spoke to David Kaufman and he suggested that there be just one email address for the BSLT. She asked the committee if they were agreeable to having just one email for the Land Trust. The Committee Agreed.

Next Meeting Date Next Meeting Date is set for 10/24/22 at 6:30 instead of 7:00pm

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:07p