

mflyPUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT LAND TRUST

Monday October 24, 2022 @ 6.30 PM

Bonnet Shores Community Center  
130 Bonnet Shores Road  
Narragansett, RI 02882

CALL TO ORDER

Land Trust Chair Mary Flynn called the meeting to order at 6.30p. Those in attendance were Mary Flynn, Chair, Arthur Hardy, George Monaghan, Stephen Puerini, Clerk Anita Langer, Council Liaison Bill Delgizzo. The meeting was in person and David Kaufman (non-voting) was present by Zoom with the help of Laurie McCarthy, BSFD Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

The Meeting Minutes from the 8.29.22 were approved. Arthur Hardy made the motion to accept and George Monaghan seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The 9.26.22 Meeting Minutes were approved. Arthur Hardy made the motion to accept, and George Monaghan seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business

Report of Land Acquisitions Committee Steve Puerini submitted his report that out of the 75 letter sent out to individuals to solicit donation of land adjacent to the Land Trust Lands. Two responded and he is in conversation with Atty. Martha Day as to the process and procedure to obtain these two parcels for the BSLT. Steve Puerini spoke to the legal cost involved in transferring these parcels to the Trust and at what cost to the BSLT. A vote took place with Arthur Hardy making the motion to accept these two properties, Mary seconding the motion. The Motion carried 4-0. The Legal Fees for these transfers will be submitted to the BSFD Treasurer to be paid from the BSLT Sinking Fund.

Wesquage Pond Watershed Sampling Program Updates: Mary Flynn reported that there was no additional pond sampling done this year. We unfortunately do not have the data we thought we would acquire for this year. Mary said she planned to contact URI Watershed to see if they have suggestions for 2023 so we could have complete testing data done. The protocol was discussed. Laurie McCarthy had volunteered in the past and sampling seemed to be more consistent at that time. Not that I know of?

Update on FEMA survey Mary Flynn reported that the survey began in this past month. Phase one will last about nine months. Dr. King, who is the URI Oceanography school faculty member performing the survey plans to provide us with data as phases are completed.

Update on Watershed Plan David Black is continuing to complete this as a volunteer. He is going over the edits recommended in the Plan by DEM and will let us know when it is completed.

Update on criteria for "use" of Land Trust land Atty William Conley has been hired by the BSLT to review the BSLT Charter specifically in looking at Section 1 of the Charter to review the scope of use of BSLT land.

Discussion on being self-funded Atty William Conley is also looking into the funding aspect of the BSLT Charter.

11.6.22

Retention Pond inspection Jim Tierney, Narragansett Town Manager, relayed that the Retention Ponds are inspected when they are installed but as they are on public property, they are not inspected again, unless there is a complaint. The town does not require inspections of the Retention Ponds once they have been put in by either the Town or the Private Businesses in the area. He also does not have a list the properties that have retention ponds. Mary will send certified letters to all the businesses asking them for information on the current state of their retention ponds and when they were last inspected

Update on Land Trust Charter review Mary Flynn contacted William Conley, Jr to request his review of our two charters (1991, 1992) with the hopes of some revisions and having one charter that reflects any additions and revisions. Mr. Conley has agreed to the work. Mary also mentioned an email that was sent out stating that we had not voted on retaining Mr. Conley and she wanted to make sure the trustees understood that we had voted at the September Land Trust meeting for her to contact Mr. Conley. There was a discussion about the Charter and that there were two charters and it is not clear what they say. It was decided that the trustees would read the charter for the next meeting and we would discuss it. The trustees were asked to read the charter and make notes on what they found confusing/ need to be explained and we will discuss it at the next meeting.

Signage for Land Trust properties Mary Flynn reported that she had a quote from one of the vendors she had contacted and was awaiting the second quote. Art Hardy said that he had contacted a friend who has since retired but had made signs for years. The friend provided Art with information on what materials should be used and how the sign should be hung for best results. There was a discussion around having more information on some of the signs to educate the public about the BSLT.

## NEW BUSINESS

Renewing tax exempt status (first obtained in the 1990's) Mary Flynn suggested that we renew the Land Trust tax exempt status that has lapsed. Everyone agreed with this suggestion. Mary said that she would look into what is involved and the cost of this.

LT roles Mary Flynn sent the Trustees and excel spreadsheet of the current activities of the LT. She asked everyone to look at the responsibilities, let her know if she is missing any, and everyone should decide on at least two activities that they would work on.

Culvert Funding Announcement Mary Flynn presented to the Trustees that there was a funding announcement from DOT that had been sent to her by Carol O'Donnell. Mary will be looking into the application with the assistance of David Black. Anita Langer brought in some information from a former BSLT Member regarding the Culverts and information that the Town of Narragansett was involved with CRMC to assist in the cleaning of the Culverts. She gave this information to Mark Gillooly, BSFD Manager, with the Engineering Drawings showing placement of the Culverts. Discussion that we need a long term plan if the BSLT is going to take over this responsibility as was determined at the October Council meeting.

Trail maintenance going forward Arthur Hardy said at the present time the Trail was passable and there is no need for maintenance. Arthur will follow through on this in spring 2023.

RI Land Trust Alliance. Mary Flynn mentioned that she had met with Kate Sayles, the ED for the RI Land Trust Alliance. Kate provided Mary with resources they have which could be beneficial to our LT.

Selling of LT properties. A letter had been sent to the BSFD Council from Resident Robert Varrone requesting purchase of part of the paper road Branch Rd (88 sq. ft.) so he could enlarge his home. A vote was taken. Arthur made a motion not to see any BSLT properties sold, Mary seconded it. The Trustees discussed this at length. The vote was called and it was unanimously agreed that our charter prohibits the sale of any LT properties. The motion carried 4-0.

LT Trustee resignation Salvatore Laporchio emailed Mary Flynn in the past month that he was resigning from the LT. He stated that his three- year term would have ended in July 2022 and he was not planning to continue on the LT. As the LT charter states that any vacancy is to be appointed by the Council, Mary sent the recommendation of David Kaufman who received the next highest votes for LT at the time of the 2021 election. The Council told Mary that they would vote on David at the November meeting but he was welcome to start to be involved, hence his Zoom attendance at this meeting.

Public Comment – Paula Child spoke to the BSFD Council’s turning over responsibility of maintaining the Culvert and pond level to the BSLT by the Council Chair at the October 2022 meeting. Paula asked the Trustees if they knew of the plan going forward to accomplish this goal. Mary Flynn said that the first she had heard of this was at the Council meeting and no plan was in place. She said she would look into this and work with Mark Gillooly to petition the Town to assist us as there is not only a problem for the Homeowners around Wesquage Pond but a Safety Issue on Bonnet Point Road (Causeway section) when the road floods.

Next Meeting Date 11.28.22

Adjournment. Arthur Hardy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Puerini seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8.21p carried 4-0.