

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT LAND TRUST

Monday 1.9.23 @ 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 6:30 PM. Those in attendance were Mary Flynn, Chair, Arthur Hardy, David Kaufman, and Council Liaison Bill Delgizzo. Steve Puerini was absent.

Minutes from 11.26.2022 were approved. Art made a motion, Dave 2nd the motion to approve.

Old Business

1. Culvert Mark Gillooly reported - progress today including widening the area and straightening the flow. Running much stronger, now at sea level. Sand was moved to the BS Beach club to sift through and move good sand back to the beach. Firm is now working on the pond side of the culvert to dredge out debris and straighten the flow. FD Council is looking into retaining the firm to perform ongoing maintenance of the culvert and flow.

Mark Gillooly met in person with Darren from Narragansett DPW who will clean roadway out and repair guardrails after the culvert work is completed (once it is determined who installed it). Materials for guardrails are backordered at least 6 months.

All agreed that a longer term plan needs to be developed. Ownership of that responsibility lies with the LT and the BSFD Council working together with the community.

Community input:

Lloyd Albert – great work being done by a reputable firm that is familiar with water management and regulations. Glad we're talking to them about ongoing maintenance.

Paul Childs – asking for the LT to fulfill responsibilities to address the issue on an ongoing basis and to request an increase in the budget allocation for this.

2. Report of Land Acquisitions – Steve sent the following to Mary Flynn on 1.6.23 by email:

There are two confirmed donations of vacant land in the last stages of the process. Steve feels that the donor having to pay anything is a stumbling block. He suggests that the Land Trust be asked as to what funds they would be willing to expend to secure additional transfers.

Steve asked if we could consider a \$500 cap on reimbursement for legal expenses. Art, Dave and Mary agreed we should not pay any reimbursement for legal fees.

No additional follow-up needed on letters that were sent without a response. Art suggested that wait for a few years.

3. Wesquage Pond Watershed Sampling Program – no updates at this time

4. Update on FEMA survey- 1st quarter report was submitted to RIEMA. No expenses yet.
5. Update on Watershed Plan – David Black continues to work on it and hopes to get it to us soon.
6. Retention Pond inspection – no responses have been received but they were all delivered as they were sent certified mail.
7. Signage for Land Trust properties - Art provided contact information to Dave to send high resolution version of logo to Signorama to create– 3’ x 5’ sign, vinyl on vinyl. Location for Wesquague Pond signage TBD.
8. Renewing tax exempt status Mary will address this at the next meeting.
9. LT roles – Mary drafted potential wording for new trustees and comments have been received. Mary will edit and send out again.
10. Culvert Grant application – Status update Bill Delgizzo. Contacted “Save the bay” – no response yet.
11. Land Trust Charter review – Edits have been made from the work of the Trustees at the November meeting. Next step is read once more and to submit to State which we will discuss at February 2023 meeting. Bill Delgizzo suggested we add a line to the Charter regarding the possibility of the Land Trust becoming a 501(c)(3) organization in the future.

The question was asked at the Novemeber meeting as to how other Land Trusts in RI seat Trustees. Mary emailed Kate Sayles, ED RI LT Alliance and she responded: The majority of other land trusts in RI are stand-alone 501(c)(3) organizations with bylaws that dictate the number of board members, elections, annual meetings, etc., and don't have charters. Could the fire district elect for you to become your own non-profit organization, instead of relying on their charter/annual meeting? Is there a way for the land trust to work on a mission/bylaws that are separate? Further discussion will occur at the next Land Trust meeting.

New business

1. Renewal of RI land trust – sent to Laurie to process check.
2. The question was asked at the November meeting if the Land Trust is listed on the insurance for the Land Trust properties. Mary emailed Laurie McCarthy; she responded recently that she did not know but would contact Carol O'Donnell to see if she knew the answer.
3. Terry Beaty will be presented to the FD Council at the next meeting as a replacement for George Monahan who handed in his resignation. The people with the next 2 highest who ran for positions on the Land Trust in 2021 declined to join.

Next Meeting Date: Monday February 27th 2023.

Adjournment 7:35 PM