

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT LAND TRUST
Monday May 15 @ 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, Terry Beaty, Art Hardy, Dave Kaufman, Steve Puerini, and Council Liaison Steve Danuszar.

Approval of minutes from 3.27.27.23 meeting David made the motion to accept and Art seconded. Mary noted that she had the wrong date (2.27.23) for the minutes on the agenda.

Old Business

Items on hold:

Update on FEMA survey – next update will be June 2023.

Faith LaSalle questioned the work that this grant is performing. Bill Delgizzo explained that the grant will assess tides, water current, seaweed growth and other factors that could impact erosion of the coastline. The data collected will be used to provide potential solutions to decreasing future erosion.

Report of Land Acquisitions - Steve P. said that two of three lots he has been working on are likely to be donated to the Land Trust. He said he spoke to the town of Narragansett regarding the BSLT acquiring lots in the fire district that are currently owned by the Narragansett Land Trust and was told it was not a priority of the town. Mary explained that she had contacted the town last fall and was told that the lots had been offered to the BSLT in the past, but no one from the Land Trust replied to the offer.

Land Trust Charter – Mary said that she would send out an email to the trustees to set up a time to meet to continue the discussion of the revisions for the Charter.

Active items:

Website items - Dave has offered to update the LT website. He received access to the current LT website from Len Mercier. Dave said that he met some BSFD residents who take pictures of the wildlife, and they will send them to him for posting. Mary asked that people send to Dave items would like to see posted on the LT website.

Watershed Plan – Mary emailed David Black last week. David said that Bill Delgizzo was going to provide him with the name of someone at DEM who would help David complete the Water Shed plan. Bill said that Lloyd Albert had a contact at DEM that he had contacted, and that person would ask someone in the Water Shed division to assist David Black.

Wesquage Pond Watershed Sampling Program – Laurie and Paul McCarthy will be doing the water testing for the 2023 season. They will be starting soon.

Culvert - Bill Delgizzo said that he had called DiPrete Engineering to ask if they would provide pro bono work for upgrading the culvert. Bill said DiPrete was very busy and did not think they could provide pro bono work but they may be able to provide an estimate for what would be involved and an estimate of the cost.

Signage for Land Trust properties – Dave brought the mark ups of the signs and the group voted on the color. Dave and Art provided what is needed to complete the sign and put it up. Dave showed the group potential locations and there was a discussion on where best to place it.

Tax exempt status- Steve Danuszar said he was looking into this. Dave said that he thought that the LT was a 501(c)(3) based on what he had read.

Trustee recruitment and roles for this year – Mary asked if we could edit the recruitment flyer Dave had provided a few months back. Dave said he would edit and send to the Trustees for comment. .

Budget for 2024 – Dave asked if we could include in the budget funds to upgrade the Community Center. Mary said that she was not sure of the status of the discussion to upgrade the CC. Carolyn Dileo concurred with that and they said they would look into it. Dave also asked if the expenses associated with the LT that are currently in the Council budget be placed in the LT budget and said he would contact Laurie McCarthy. Dave suggested that additional budget be requested for the signs that we would like to place at the other LT properties.

Carolyn Dileo encouraged everyone who could to attend the budget meeting. Faith LaSalle said again that she felt the LT should be self-funded. She provided some examples of how the LT could raise funds such as charging a higher fee for the benches. Carolyn DiLeo suggested we consider a fee for real estate transfers.

Land Trust property charges – Mary said she was not sure of the status of this item and would contact Laurie McCarthy.

Trail maintenance -Neal Colman said that the boy scouts had built and installed two benches on the tail.

New business

Pickle ball in sand pit. Mary said that Steve McCooey suggested to her that the area on the CC property that was used in the past for volleyball be converted to pickleball courts. Dave said that he was looking into the cost for this.

Public comment

Comments and concerns are welcomed from BSFD residents. The Chair asks that you state your name and address. Please limit your time to no more than three minutes. Please provide your comments in a tone that is respectful and refrain from language or tone that is rude or antagonistic. For any concerns raised that involve the duties of the Land Trust, please provide constructive solutions. We welcome any volunteer efforts that would help further the work of the Land Trust. Thank you for considering these requests.

Don Colarulli said that he learned at the last Council meeting that the LT would not allow the BSBC to use the Community Center for their monthly meetings. Mary explained that is not the case but what had happened was when she read on the agenda for the April Council meeting a list of

scheduled meetings of the BSBC to use the CC, she emailed the Council (April 18th) questioning this item as the LT was not involved in the decision to let the BSBC use the CC. Mary said that she had not heard anything more regarding this from the Council. Don (and Richard?) questioned why the LT could do this and gave examples of use of the CC for Fire District members that are allowed. Carolyn Dileo and Bill DelGizzo explained that the difference is the BSBC, which is a business, would be using the facility for free.

There was a discussion on what are the duties/ role of the LT versus the Council. Anita gave the history of the LT as it was established mainly to avoid paying taxes on the land owned by the Fire District prior to 1990. Anita said she worked with Mike Falvey to write the Charter that was passed 1991.

Next Meeting Date is Monday June 19th at 6.30p.

Adjournment at 7.30 p by David Kaufman and seconded by Terry Beaty.