

BONNET SHORES LAND TRUST
130 BONNET SHORE ROAD
TUESDAY DECEMBER 16, 2025
6:30 PM

AGENDA

Call To Order

Pledge Of Allegiance

Announcements

Email exchange between a BSFD Community Member and the RI Land Trust Alliance

BSFD Community Member wrote...

I live in the Bonnet Shores Fire District. The Fire District has a Land Trust that was established in 1991 by Legislative Act. From 1994 until 2017 the Land Trust qualified as a 501(c)(3) entity. At that time it lost its exemption due to failure to file the Form 990. Recently, the elected Land Trust council worked to reinstate its 501 (c)(3) status. New members are now questioning the need for exemption but no one on the Fire District Council or the Land Trust knows what exactly our Land Trust is.

In researching the qualities of a Municipal Land Trust I came across your testimony regarding the Burrillville Land Trust. You mentioned “best practices” established by municipal land trusts and I am hoping to get a copy of those. In addition, I am trying to figure out if a municipal land trust is automatically exempt from Federal taxes and if donations to a municipal land trust are deductible without a 501(c)(3) designation.

RI Land Trust Alliance reply...

Thanks for reaching out. I would direct your specific questions about the Bonnet Shores Land Trust to Joan Fandetti, and I've copied her on this email.

In my testimony regarding the Burrillville LT, my reference to best practices was more generalized- sorry if that was unclear. I was referring to the fact that the other 19 municipal land trusts have their own governance structures that outline how they operate, either in their charters or their bylaws. The Burrillville Conservancy that the town established did not have any governing documents or structure.

Municipal land trusts are extensions of cities and towns, and therefore the land belongs

to the city/town. The land trusts are extensions of the cities/towns.

New and Ongoing Business

1. Guest Speakers URI Students Mason, Shannon, and Cassie
BSFD Causeway Phragmites Study and New Pamphlet Presentation
Discussion and questions to immediately follow
2. Meeting Minutes Approve Amended Draft 10/14/2025 Meeting Minutes
Motion to Approve
3. Meeting Minutes-Approve Tuesday 11/25/2025 Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve
4. Discussion of findings concerning donated lot N-R 873 Town Hall Narragansett
5. Discussion of findings concerning 501(c)3 and APRA request Town Hall Narragansett
6. Schedule LT Meeting-Review-Discuss next meeting day-date-time

Public Comments (3 minutes only)

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn and 2nd. All in favor. Meeting adjourned _____