

Bonnet Shores Land Trust Meeting Minutes (APPROVED)
Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Present:

J. Fandetti, K. Sheridan, P. Brousseau, J. Thomas, K. Dolan

Call to Order

1. Meeting called to order by Joan Fandetti, Chair, at 6:31PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance

Announcements

1. Water Watch sampling of Wesquage Pond began Saturday, May 3rd.
 - a. A special 'Thank You' to volunteers Cole Libby and Greg Bouris.
 - b. Beginning the week of Sunday, May 11, 2025, Kevin Dolan, LT Trustee will be sampling.
2. RI Land Trust Alliance 'Chaos To Clarity' has ended. Last online class was Tuesday 4/29/2025
3. The timeline for the Little Beach Study as written is correct . Dr King responded.
4. Paulette Brousseau and Joan Fandetti attended the RI Land Trust Alliance Symposium on Saturday, May 3, 2025. The following topics were covered – discuss, share and answer any questions:
 - a. Managing Risk & Strengthening Stewardship – What Municipal Land Trusts Need to Know; presented by Ian Ridlon, President/ Executive Director of the Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management
 - b. Public Trust Protections for Municipal Conservation Lands – A Refresher; Presenter: Tom Rogers (Chair, RI Land Trust Council)
 - c. What's Working for Municipal Land Trusts (Announcement & Networking Activity). This interactive session combined inspiration and connection.
 - d. YCL (Youth Conservation League) RI Audubon Society, Dr. Scott Ruhren shared that for a fee of \$600.00, 3 YCL workers will complete your selected project (total of 6 hours)
5. The Trustees discussed the Little Beach Study and agreed that before funding any follow-up studies or new studies, we need to understand the potential costs of the proposed solutions.
 - a. If those solutions are cost prohibitive it would seem that funding the studies would not be a prudent expense. It was advised that any future funding for Little Beach studies would need to be voted on by the community.
6. The insurance policy will be reviewed to better understand what activities volunteers can and cannot do based on our coverage.
 - a. We cannot host events that involve a transfer of money, however, further information is needed to understand if we can host an event where we, the Land Trust, pay someone but do not charge the community.
7. It was noted that the Hopkinton (Rhode Island) Land Trust has a separate sponsorship for its Land Trust. It is called "Friends of the Hopkinton Land Trust" and is a 501(c)(3) that raises money and donates it to the Hopkinton Land Trust.
 - a. Paulette Brousseau will contact Hopkinton Land Trust for more information.

Agenda

1. Motion to review and accept April 15, 2025 meeting minutes
 - a. Motion to accept meeting minutes, J.Thomas; Second, P. Brousseau

- i. Motion passed, 5 votes for, 0 against
- 2. Memorial Bench Discussion
 - a. It has been determined that BFSD community members of the Anthony and Francis Girardi Family had been promised a bench prior to 2023
 - i. The bench was assign to a different community member
 - ii. The Girardis would now like the bench that was promised to them
 - b. We currently have one open spot for a bench at Little Beach and potentially 3 spots on the Bonnet Battery
 - c. The Trustees discussed several actions
 - i. Consider non-perpetual benches
 - ii. Formalize the list of those who would like a memorial bench
 - iii. Checking to make sure that current bench owners are still interested in maintaining their benches
 - iv. Ensuring that all Memorial Benches are only dedicated to deceased family members
 - v. Creating standards for all benches that must be adhered to by bench owners
 - vi. Possibility of moving to a system where the Fire District procures and maintains the benches on behalf of the family, with the family paying an initial donation for the bench and an annual maintenance donation
 - 1. This would ensure consistency.
 - 2. This would also eliminate any potential insurance and liability issues since the benches would now be property of the Land Trust and not privately owned property.
 - d. Motion to table Memorial Bench voting pending further research and discussion of all options
 - i. K. Dolan; Second, K. Sheridan
 - 1. Motion passed, 5 votes for, 0 against
- 3. Motion to consider Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM as the date of the next Land Trust Meeting
 - a. K. Sheridan; Second, K. Dolan
 - i. Motion passed, 5 votes for, 0 against
- 4. Motion to add an agenda item to the 7/15/25 meeting to discuss grants
 - a. J. Thomas; Second, P. Brouseau
 - i. Motion passed, 5 votes for, 0 against

Public Comment

- 1. Faith LaSalle 98 Colonel John Gardner Road
 - a. Ms. LaSalle inquired as to the reasoning around acquiring any land in the fire district that has to be insured. She also noted that a "Friends of" 501(c)(3) is a good idea and she supports the work to research and discuss at future meetings. Lastly, she noted that the Land Trust should in the future ensure that all major expenditures are voted on as a referendum at the annual meeting to ensure clarity and transparency and ensure there is community support for the expense.
- 2. Tamara Miller-Kammerer, 52 Webster Avenue
 - a. Ms. Miller-Kammerer appreciated hearing the discussion around memorial benches and would support better coordination, structure and regulation around this program. She noted that memorial benches are a privilege and she appreciates the thoughtful approach we are taking.

Motion to Adjourn

1. Motion to adjourn K. Dolan; Second J. Thomas
 - a. Motion Passed, 5 votes for, 0 against
2. Meeting Adjourned 7:49PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kelly R. Sheridan".

Kelly R. Sheridan

Bonnet Shores Land Trust Committee Secretary

<https://www.bonnetshoreslandtrust.org/>