

Bonnet Shores Land Trust Meeting Minutes 10/14/25 APPROVED

Tuesday, October 14, 2025
Bonnet Shores Community Center

Present:

J. Fandetti (Chair), K. Sheridan, P. Brousseau, T. Beaty, K. Dolan

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Joan Fandetti at 6:34 PM.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Announcements

- The Rhode Island Foundation Grant Application was submitted on time (by 3PM) on September 26, 2025.
 - The Land Trust learned of the opportunity through Kate Sayles, Executive Director, RI Land Trust Alliance, who provided the contact information.
 - Due to the short deadline, the grant request included:
 - A new playset for the community center playground
 - Surface replenishment for same
 - Butterfly bush plantings around the walking trail perimeter
 - If awarded, the Land Trust will have one year to implement the project based on the actual amount granted (could be up to \$10,000)
 - Notification of the award is expected on or around December, 2025.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Approval of August 26, 2025 Organizational Meeting Minutes
 - Motion: P. Brousseau
 - Second: K. Sheridan
 - Vote: Passed unanimously (5-0)
- Approval of September 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes, amended to correctly reference the date of the August 26, 2025 Organizational Meeting
 - Motion to accept as amended: P. Brousseau
 - Second: K. Sheridan
 - Vote: Passed (4 in favor; K. Dolan abstained as he was not present at the September 9, 2025 meeting)

4. BSFD Land Trust T-Shirts

- Motion to review, discuss and vote to purchase BSFD Land Trust T-Shirts for sale to the community
 - Motion: T. Beaty
 - Second: P. Brousseau
 - Discussion
 - Three quotes were received:

- Rush Order Tees: \$1,021.15 for 100 shirts (\$10.21/shirt)
- 4Imprint: \$865.79 for 100 shirts (\$8.66/shirt) (they did send a sample)
- Graphic Expressions: \$800 for 100 shirts (\$8.00/shirt) (no setup fees, this is a local vendor who had previously provided shirts for Bonnet Days)
- All three vendors use the same soft Gildan material
- Graphic Expressions can match existing signage colors and provide extended sizing at no additional cost.
- Proposed color: Blue shirt with “Bonnet Shores Land Trust” logo on left chest.
- Vote to approve Graphic Expression of the vendor and purchase T-Shirts: Passed unanimously (5-0)

5. Discussion: Foundation Group Consultation for 501(c)(3) Application

- Motion to review, discuss and vote to request that the BSFD Council approve an expense for consultation related to potential corrections to the 501(c)(3) designation
 - Motion: K. Dolan
 - Second: T. Beaty
 - Discussion
 - Errors were identified in the application that a previous Land Trust originally submitted to the IRS for the 501(c)(3) application
 - In response to community feedback, J. Fandetti would like to explore keeping the 501(c)(3) in place but correcting the errors in the original application
 - J. Fandetti contacted the IRS and confirmed corrections are allowed.
 - J. Fandetti recommended that we schedule a 1-hour conference call with The Foundation Group, the consultant to the Land Trust when the application was submitted, to review the errors and potential proposed remedies; the fee for such services would be \$300/hour (we expect the call to take one hour)
 - The Land Trust will review the original contract and any potential Foundation Group responsibility before agreeing to the charges
 - The call will include members of both the Land Trust and BSFD Council while ensuring that neither group is represented by a quorum (three or more participants from the same group).
 - There was consensus that professional guidance is needed before proceeding
 - Vote to request that the BSFD Council approve an expense of \$300 and the Land Trust proceed with the consultation; Passed unanimously (5-0)

6. Next Meeting

- Proposed date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:30 PM
 - Motion: P. Brousseau
 - Second: K. Sheridan
 - Vote: Passed unanimously (5-0)

7. Public Comment

- Cassie Wolfe, Environmental Science and Management Master's Student at URI

- Ms. Wolfe shared that she is working on a project related to Wesquage Pond and is interested in the Land Trust's plans regarding the area
 - Leslie McKnight, BSFD Chair, shared details of a related grant.
 - T. Beatty suggested that Ms. Wolfe review the watershed information on the Land Trust website and return to the November meeting to suggest next steps
 - J. Fandetti will explore inviting the CMRC and/or DEM to speak with the students at the November meeting
- Shannon McGrath, URI student
 - Ms. McGrath proposed that the students could create an informational pamphlet about Wesquage Pond for community education purposes
- Faith LaSalle, 98 Colonel John Gardner Road
 - Ms. LaSalle noted the 501(c)(3) application was originally submitted by David Kaufmann and trustees
 - She shared that in previous discussions when the application was under review, it was noted that The Foundation Group was unfamiliar with fire districts and public land trusts.
 - Ms. LaSalle recommended attaching the Land Trust's rules and regulations to the amended application since the Land Trust does not have bylaws
- Steve Danuszar, 120 Bonnet Shores Road
 - Mr. Danuszar recommended sending in the reviewed IRS 501(c)(3) application as soon as possible. He is confident it is beneficial to make any necessary adjustments in order to avoid the potential risk of the IRS finding any fatal errors in advance of the corrected application being submitted.
- J. Fandetti requested that the BSFD Council coordinate with Mark Gillooly, BSFD Manager, regarding community center setup for Land Trust meetings

8. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: K. Dolan
- Second: P. Brousseau
- Vote: Passed unanimously (5-0)
- Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly R. Sheridan
Bonnet Shores Land Trust Committee Secretary

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