

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT LAND TRUST

Monday March 27 @ 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, Terry Beaty, Art Hardy, David Kaufman. Steve Danuszar from the Council was present. Absent: Steve Puerni.

Old Business

Items on hold:

Update on FEMA survey - Mary said that she sent the second quarter report to RI-EMA last week using information provided by John King, PhD, who is doing the survey. No expenses have been posted to date.

Report of Land Acquisitions – Mary said that Steve Puerni emailed her earlier today and said that there were a couple of potential properties to be donated but she is not sure if they are new properties or ones that have been in process. Terry Beaty has offered to work on land acquisitions and Mary said that she would connect him to Steve Puerini via email.

Land Trust Charter - Mary suggested that the Trustees meet when all Trustees are in RI, which may be May or June of this year. All Trustees present were in agreement.

Active items:

Watershed Plan – Mary met with David Black last week. He has completed the technical changes requested by DEM. He originally wrote the Plan based on the information provided on DEM's website but when he submitted it for review in June 2022, it was not returned until August and the focus of DEM had changed so he had to rewrite parts of it. Also, there has been a fair amount of turnover at DEM, so he is dealing with different people. He will let us know when it is completed.

Wesquage Pond Watershed Sampling Program. Laurie McCarthy said that she and her husband will do the pond sampling for 2023.

Signage for Land Trust properties - The sign is ready to be completed by Sign-o-rama and the Trustees agreed to the charge. Art and Steve Danuszar said that they would be responsible for the installation.

Tax exempt status- Tax exempt status- Steve Danuszar contacted the IRS, for a Federal tax history of the Land Trust. To speak with them, Steve needs to issue the IRS a Power of Attorney, Form 2848. This was completed and signed by Mary & Steve, at the meeting.

Trustee recruitment and roles for this year – Mary suggested that the LT send out to the BSFD a notice that contains the projects that the LT would like to pursue in the future and what talents we could use for the projects to encourage the appropriate residents to contact us. This would allow the LT to have both Trustees and volunteers working on the projects.

BSFD insurance and listing of Land Trust properties.- Laurie McCarthy was present at the meeting and she said that the BSFD insurance currently includes the land that the trail is on. She will be adding wording so that the Bonnet Battery is also included on the insurance policy.

Budget for 2024 –Trustees present agreed on the budget Mary had sent out for review after the last meeting, including funds for more signs.

Wildlife issues/ protocol – the Trustees present agreed that for any future wildlife issues the LT would work with the District Manager and the appropriate local and state agencies for the wildlife in question.

Land Trust property charges - Mary has had conversations with Laurie McCarthy regarding the costs for use of the LT properties. It was agreed that the rental fee for the Community Center should be increased to \$500 (from \$350) to cover the costs of the Center. Mary and Laurie propose that the LT work with the Council to establish if it is prudent to purchase new tables, chairs, and paint the walls of the Community Center.

Fund raising -Mary has not heard back from the person Bill DelGizzo said wanted to work on fundraising for the LT.

New business

Maintenance of Land Trust properties (trees) – There was a discussion on what should be done when trees on LT properties fall down, rot, etc. It was not felt that the LT should include in their budget funds for trees maintenance.

Watershed issues - Mary suggested that the LT put together information on the use of lawn fertilizers that are not damaging to pond, etc.. She also suggested that the LT provide information on rain barrels and how useful they are both for protecting the BSFD watershed but also when there is a water shortage for watering plants.

BSLT website – Dave asked if the LT would like to keep the LT website separate from the BSFD website. There was some discussion on pros and cons and the overall agreement is that the LT maintain a separate website at least for now.

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.

George Monaghan said that the LT should be overseeing the benches in the Fire District. The Trustees present were in agreement that the benches stay with the Council for oversight. George also asked where the LT sign for Wesquage pond will be located and Dave Kaufman showed him on his computer using a electronic map of Bonnet Shores Fire District.

Next Meeting Date Monday April 15 @ 6.30p.

Adjournment 7.50p.