

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

BONNET SHORES FIRE DISTRICT LAND TRUST

Tuesday February 21, 2024 @ 6.30 PM

Bonnet Shores Community Center
130 Bonnet Shores Road
Narragansett, RI 02882

CALL TO ORDER

Land Trust Chair Terry Beaty called the meeting to order at 6.32p. Those in attendance were: Mary Flynn, Art Hardy, David Kaufman and Council Liaison Steve Danuszar. Absent: Steve Puerini. Additionally present was Council member Bill DelGizzo.

There was no LT meeting in January as there was not a quorum so there were no minutes to approve.

Active items:

Tax exempt status Dave Kaufman updated the group on his progress with the paperwork which is ready to submit. The BSFD council has not approved the by-laws that the Land Trust approved in November. Numerous drafts and the final plus numerous follow-ups were sent to the BSFD Council with no feedback.

Community Center Floor – Mark Gillooly (District Manager) explained the process of acquiring bids for resurfacing the floor. The current plan is to resurface the floor with a garage-type floor, similar to what is currently there, as he feels that is what is best for the five-week summer camp. There was a discussion as to whether this was the best option for future use of the CC for activities such as parties, weddings and other events such as other Community Centers in the area have installed and asked about other alternatives such as vinyl laminate for the multi-purpose use of the CC and if additional bids for alternative flooring could be obtained. Mark said that the council will be discussing the CC floor at the Council meeting tomorrow evening (2.21.24) and he would act on whatever the Council decides.

2024 Bay and Watershed Restoration Fund (BWRP) grant – The BSFD Council is planning to submit an application. The application is due on 2.28.24 so it was decided that the LT involvement would be limited to what has presently been done, mainly comment.

Wesquage Pond Watershed Sampling Program –Mary said that she had emailed the URI Watershed (Elizabeth Herron) and we have three samples from 2023, with one each in October and December. Mary suggested that someone is paid to collect the samples going forward as this is critical data and the use of volunteers in the past has resulted in limited sampling. Faith LaSalle (public) said that this would mean LT “paid employees” which is not allowed. Mary said she would continue to try and figure this out.

Trustee recruitment – There was a discussion on what “talents” we are looking for based on what we would like to accomplish. It was suggested that we use an e-blast to recruit volunteers for specific projects and also that BSFD residents would also be identified for their talents and personally asked by LT Trustees.

Public comment

Faith LaSalle raised concerns with the by-laws. She offered some generalities and that she does not think the LT should be filing for 501(c)(3) status. Dave reminded everyone that he has been working on a reinstatement of the LT tax exempt status, which the BSFD Council unfortunately allowed to lapse and was revoked by the IRS in 2017. There was a discussion of those present that tax exempt status of the LT would secure the current properties of the a BSFD and could be critical should the BSFD be dissolved. The 501(c)(3) also protects the properties with a tax exemption status.

Matt Mannix said that the LT could use the by-laws of the BSFD and did not need their own. Dave said he would investigate further.

Faith said that Anthony DeAngelis (Council member) had told her the LT did not want outside involvement in the LT by-laws development. Dave refuted this claim by providing the many communications he had either provided to or included the council since October 2023 and that there had not been involvement or feedback from the Council to date.

Next Meeting Date 3.19.24 @ 6.30p.

Motion to adjourn made by Dave at 7.45p and seconded by Mary.

Adjournment