

## DRAFT Bonnet Shores Fire District Land Trust Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 18, 2024

Present: Joan Fandetti, Paulette Brousseau, Kevin Dolan, Joe Thomas, Kelly Sheridan

Absent: None

### Call to Order

1. Meeting called to order by Joan Fandetti, Chair, at 6:34 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of silence for Lee Listro, long-time BSFD community member who had recently passed away

### Announcements

1. Ms. Fandetti verified that The Land Trust Committee will adhere to the Land Trust Charter
2. She also shared that the Scouts who helped create the BSFD walking trail will be invited to attend a Spring 2025 Council meeting so that the community may say thank you; pizza and drinks will be served to all guests.

### Agenda

1. Ms. Fandetti asked for the October 9, 2024 Land Trust Committee Meeting Minutes to be approved
  - a. Motion to accept meeting minutes, Joe Thomas; Second, Kevin Dolan
    - i. Motion passed, 5 votes for, 0 against
2. Ms. Fandetti noted that the Land Trust Committee terms are as follows: 1 1-year term, 2 year terms, and 2 3-year terms. The Committee members volunteered for the terms as follows: Joe Thomas, 1-year term; Kevin Dolan and Kelly Sheridan, 2-year term; Paulette Brousseau and Joan Fandetti, 3-year term.
  - a. Motion to accept term assignments, Joe Thomas; Second, Kevin Dolan
    - i. Motion passed, 5 votes for, 0 against.
3. Neal Colman, 31 Fairway Drive, shared info about the BSFD walking trail, including a map
  - a. The trail is ½ mile and takes approx 30 minutes to walk; it begins near the pickleball court and is marked by the kiosk and ends behind the Community Center.
  - b. Mr. Colman requested that the Land Trust Committee consider a sign to mark the trail entrance that includes an acknowledgement of the Boy and Girl Scouts who created the trail
  - c. Mr. Colman is looking for 4 to 5 volunteers from the community who can help keep the trail clear from March to November; Joan Fandetti will send an email blast asking interested volunteers to contact her and will then pass names and contact info to Neal.
  - d. A tour of the walking trail will be scheduled at a later date.
4. Ms. Fandetti requested that we consider tabling a \$7,000 request for funds from the BSFD Council as it was not voted on at the August 2024 Annual Meeting.
  - a. Motion to table the \$7,000 request to a later date, Paulette Brousseau; Second, Kevin Dolan
    - i. Motion Passed, 5 votes for, 0 against

5. Ms. Fandetti recommended that the next Land Trust Committee Meeting be held on January 13, 2025.
  - a. Motion to hold the next meeting on 1/13/25, Kevin Dolan; Second, Joe Thomas
    - i. Motion passed, 5 votes for, 0 against.

## **Public Comment**

1. Faith LaSalle, 98 Colonel John Gardner Road

Ms. LaSalle presented historical information related to the Land Trust, including that the Land Trust was established by the BSFD in 1991 after the Rhode Island General Assembly gave the Council authority to set up the trust. Further, the Trust is financed by public funds collected by the municipality and is therefore not a private trust or a corporation and operates as an arm of the BSFD. She noted that individuals can make tax deductible donations to the Trust, as the Trust is exempt from taxation and assessments. The BSFD Council will consult an attorney to determine the appropriate classification for the Land Trust, including its status as a 503(c)(3).
2. Arthur Hardy, 48 Wolfe Road

Mr. Hardy, as a past member of the Land Trust Committee offered his assistance to the new committee and shared an overview of the water management program, which relies on community volunteers to collect and test water in the pond on a regular basis and report findings to Watershed Watch. The volunteers would need to participate in training presented by Watershed Watch in late March/early April, and collect samples weekly from May 1 to late October. Further, Mr. Hardy has presented a checklist of tasks to Joan Fandetti and reminded the Committee that the volunteers will need a rowboat or dinghy to get out into the pond to collect samples. Ms. Fandetti noted that Tony Girardi has volunteered to participate and will be taking the training, however the Committee will circulate a request for additional volunteers; the Committee will also check with the BSFD District Manager as to whether any rowboats or dinghies have been abandoned and could be used by the volunteers.
3. Steve Danuszar, 120 Bonnet Shores Road

Mr. Danuszar indicated that the Committee may want to check the December, 2018 BSFD Council Meeting Minutes for information about the legal status of the Land Trust.
4. Joan Fandetti noted that she is making requests to determine what happened to the osprey nest that was located near the Community Center.

**Meeting Adjourned**

1. Motion to Adjourn, Kelly Sheridan; Second, Paulette Brousseau
  - a. Motion to adjourn passed, 5 votes for, 0 against
2. Meeting Adjourned, 7:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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

Kelly R. Sheridan  
Bonnet Shores Land Trust Committee Secretary