

Bonnet Shores Land Trust
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 8-30-2021
Meeting held at the Community Center

The meeting of the Land Trust was called to order by George Monaghan, Chair, at 7:00 PM.

Those in attendance included Trustee's Stephen Puerini, Mary Flynn, Salvatore Loporchio and Chair George Monaghan, Clerk Len Mercier and Council liaison Bill DelGizzo. Arthur Hardy was not present due to a medical emergency.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the August 5th, 2021 meeting were approved as presented. Stephen and seconded by Mary. All in favor.

Old Business:

Report on progress of Nature Trail behind Community Center

Neal Colman was called on for report. Neal reported that the Boy Scouts, consisting of 4 adults and a number of teens built two bridges; one 20 feet long over a 14 foot span of water and a second bridge 10.5 feet long spanning over a brook. Pictures were taken of the bridges being built and passed around the table. Bridges still need railings and a couple more bridges need to be completed over small streams. Volunteers continue to work on the trail.

Paper Road Concern

Discussion on Paper Roads and how they will be treated when they become abandoned. Bill D. said that the Land Trust should request the Council to transfer the Paper Roads to the Land Trust. Last communication with the town was done by Paul Farley, while chairing the Council. Narragansett responded that Bonnet owned the roads and that Narragansett maintains them. In 1992 Garrafallo did a study on the roads and found that there were many encroachments and for that reason Narragansett did not want to own the roads and Bonnet would continue to own them. Joy Lane was discussed. Bill told George that he needed to put together a letter to the Council asking for a priority be set to locate the deed or deeds related to ownership of the roads.

Committees

There was a discussion on committees. George recommended that we have representation on some of the Council Committees that pertain to the Land Trust. Bill responded that the Land Trust should take charge of the properties and if the Trustees didn't agree they should resign. Stephen spoke about the pond and how the survey, done for the dredge project, showed work to be done to the pond. Discussion followed. Bill wanted a Pond/Watershed committee and said he had told the Council that the Land

Trust would be in charge of the Pond Committee. Trustees talked about budgeting issues and the opening of the Breachway. Following discussion Stephen made a motion to form two committees; a Westquake Watershed Pond Committee to work with the District's Pond Committee to supervise the pond and a second committee, a Land Acquisition Committee to work on soliciting the donation of properties and working with Narragansett to streamline the process for donations. Mary seconded, Salvatore abstained and 3 in favor. Motion passed.

New Business:

Properties Request

There were two properties that George had received requests on. Both properties were part of a Trust that the Trustee asked if we would consider purchasing them. The issue is that the Land Trust is not in a position to purchase properties. After talking about these it was decided to let the Trustee know that we could not purchase but would very much be interested in accepting the donation of the properties.

Other Business

Request for Wedding at the Battery

Bill reported that he had received a request for a wedding to take place at the Battery. The individual is willing to clear the brush that is blocking the view of the Bay. Trustees discussed parking issues along with liabilities. Who should be giving permission was a big question. Should it be the Council or the Land Trust. Presently the District has been in charge of any permissions of use of community properties. More discussion will be needed on this.

Breachway Opening

Opening the Breachway has been a long responsibility of the District. The District Manager has worked with the chair to monitor the pond's level and when needed would contact a contractor to open the Breachway to drain off the pond, following guidelines set by CRMC. Bill said that we should come up with a policy about how and when it should be opened, with a set level.

Public Comments:

Vincent Mesoella, 101 Bonnet Shores Road asked what he needed to do about opening a Paper Road that is next to his home. He owns the property behind his home at 101 Bonnet Shores Road and would like to build a home on that property for his daughter. He would like to develop the paper road for access to this property. Bill said that he has the right to develop the road. There was discussion about the process and it was recommended that he contact Narragansett to see what requirements would need to be met and to check with them if they would maintain it once it is completed.

Paula Childs asked about having the Breachway opened. She was told to contact the District Manager as she, working with the Chair, decide when to call the contractor to open the Breachway.

Next Meeting

Meetings will continue to be held on the last Monday of the month, 7:00 PM at the community center. Next meeting will be Monday, September 27th, 7:00 PM.

Adjournment: Stephen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM, seconded by Mary, all were in favor.

Len Mercier, Clerk