

Bonnet Shores Land Trust
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 09-27-2021
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, Arthur Hardy and Chair George Monaghan, Clerk Len Mercier and Council liaison Bill DelGizzo.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the August 5th, 2021 meeting were approved with two changes. Both changes having to do with Stephen and Mary chairing the committees set up. Stephen and seconded by Arthur. All in favor.

New Business:

Meeting Rules of Conduct

George brought up that meetings would follow Robert's Rules and the Attorney's guide to Open Meetings Rules. There will be no outbursts from the audience. Everyone is asked to stay in their seats unless they are using the restrooms or leaving. There was a question by Stephen as to if we could do zoom meetings. Lenny said he had to check on the availability for zoom and George said that they are legal as part of the Open Meetings.

Review of the Land Trust Charter

George asked if everyone had reviewed the Land Trust Charter. Stephen asked about the section of the Charter that relates to the five Trustees and the three year terms. It was explained that due to Covid, no elections took place without an Annual Meeting. So those two positions held their seats for an additional year and this year was a catchup year and to rotate seats properly two positions were for 2 years and the other two were for 3 years. Mary asked about the section of the Charter that the Land Trust should manage their properties. She was in favor of having the Land Trust manage the properties including the Beaches and the Community Center. Sal brought up that the District Council has the power to have a Land Trust to purchase and oversee public properties. Discussion followed about how when the Pond Dredge Project took place three years ago, no discussion happened with the Land Trust. At the time of the Dredge project the pond was owned by the Audubon and they had to sign off on the project for the Council to apply for the permits. Bill talked about the District testing the pond. Has not been done for a few years but someone is picking up the testing for the rest of this year and moving forward. Much discussion followed about needing clarification of its duties with respect to the properties. This discussion will follow and will need to be discussed with the Council. Arthur brought up the need to review the files and update the maps to show exactly

what properties are owned. Arthur volunteered to take on the project of reviewing the files and updating the map. George has done quite a bit of work on that. Mary made a motion, Sal seconded to have Arthur and George work together on this.

Land Acquisition Committee:

Stephen asked Narragansett for a list of properties that are delinquent in taxes. A report of his work on this was presented and is attached to these minutes. He said that he could probably get this information from the District's Tax Collector. Bill recommended targeting properties in the Green Belt. George reported that he had information on some properties that were held in Trusts, that the Trusts would like to sell.

Motion by Mary and seconded by Sal that all properties that are proposed for donations, etc, should be sent to the Chair of the Land Acquisition Committee. All were in favor. Stephen asked if Arthur would help with the Land Acquisition Committee and Arthur said he would once he finishes the updating of the maps.

Old Business:

Report on progress of Nature Trail behind Community Center

Neal Colman reported that he and John C. are building eight small bridges to go over small areas that are wet. He also had a call from the Girls Scouts and they are looking for projects. The Girls are talking about building the kiosk at the beginning and helping with other things. Neal is unbelievable at getting people with the help. Benches and dedication will be held in the Spring. John knows someone that can make the benches. There was discussion about benches being dedicated and sponsored. The Council is trying to deal with the present benches that are placed around Bonnet. Benches are in disrepair and many families are gone. Arthur mentioned that he would like to make sure everyone on the Land Trust walks the Nature Trail to make sure they understand what is discussed. Bill wants it to be publicized. Neal and John said that once it is ready they want a publicly thank everyone and have the grand opening.

Committees

George asked if anyone had thoughts on representations on the Council Committees. Not necessarily every committee, but ones like the Little Beach Committee, etc. Bill suggested that someone should be on the Activities Committee. Mary would like to represent the Land Trust on the Little Beach and Pond Committees. Still needed people to Big Beach and Public Works Committee.

Public Comments:

Anthony Lapino recommended that we should let the Council know that they needed to let the Land Trust know if anything is being planned for any of the properties. He spoke about the town was more willing to write off the taxes on these properties in years past. This is not the case presently. Stephen mentioned that we have to be diplomatic about this. Anthony also

mentioned that the Audubon was trying to sell and dump properties and that they are not just like us.

Anita Langer mentioned that Stephen should go to Northeast Evaluations and get listings. She also mentioned that the Land Trust is owner of record of all open properties.

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, October 25th.

Adjournment: Mary moved and Stephen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM, all were in favor.

Len Mercier, Clerk