

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Natural Heritage Commission Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2011

Members Present:

Kevin Nelson
Karen Saucier
Mark Carroulo
Lisa Primiano
Larry Taft

Others Present:

Gregg Cassidy
Paul Jordan
Allison Logan

Meeting called to order at 9:10 AM.

1. Grant Requests

a. Hopkinton Land Trust – Pelloni (fee)

There is collective review, discussion, and scoring of the grant proposal.

All group members discuss the property, in particular its wetlands, and frontage on a coldwater stream. There are hiking trails on the property. The property is not highly accessible to the public, as there are wetlands near the road frontage of the property.

b. Hopkinton Land Trust – Pelloni (ce)

There is collective review, discussion, and scoring of the grant proposal.

The entire property seems to be in a groundwater recharge area, and part of the property offers wellhead protection. The property is also adjacent to other protected land.

c. Town of Bristol – Taveras Farm

There is collective review, discussion, and scoring of the grant proposal.

The property is discussed as mostly wetlands, with a small amount of road frontage. In itself, the parcel does not hold much value; however as a part of the larger piece of

protected land adjacent to it, it becomes valuable. The property is a very good example of an urban/rural frontier.

d. The Nature Conservancy – Riihonen

There is collective review, discussion, and scoring of the grant proposal.

The subject property is discussed as potentially supporting rare and endangered species. The topography of the site is very interesting, possessing trails that lead directly to a river.

e. Charlestown Land Trust – YMCA Watchaug Pond

There is collective review, discussion, and scoring of the grant proposal.

Lisa Primiano announced that her husband works for the town of Charlestown. She contacted RIDEM's ethics officer, and it was determined that because Charlestown Land Trust is a private land trust and not directly affiliated with the town itself, it is okay for her to participate in the scoring process.

RIDEM was previously interested in acquiring this land as it provides promising recreational opportunities. However, there may be a possible land value issue in the process of trying to rezone the area.

Larry Taft informed the commission that the Audubon Society of Rhode Island presented a testimony opposing a zone change.

Karen Saucier asked whether Natural Heritage prohibits structures to be on the land, and Lisa Primiano replies that they do not, however, it can not be for commercial use.

This property appears as a keystone in preserving the entire pond that is adjacent to it, as $\frac{3}{4}$ of the pond is already protected land.

f. Town of Lincoln – Jergensen

There is collective review, discussion, and scoring of the grant proposal.

The subject parcel of land is discussed as contiguous with other protected land, and acts as an extension to Handy Pond. It has potential recreational opportunities, and there is calcareous greenstone on the property.

g. Block Island Conservancy – Phelan

There is collective review, discussion, and scoring of the grant proposal.

The property is described as large, mown field located in a Natural Heritage Area. It is also located in a community wellhead protection area. The parcel is contiguous with other protected land, and trails through the property would be open to public.

h. Town of Burrillville – Fielding

There is collective review, discussion, and scoring of the grant proposal.

The property would primarily be considered to be recreational. It is a scenic greenway, with potentially some uncommon plants. There is a river that runs through the subject parcel, and if protected, may protect fisheries.

i. Tiverton Land Trust – Clark

There is collective review, discussion, and scoring of the grant proposal.

Located in a Natural Heritage Area, and is contiguous with other protected lands.

j. Town of Coventry – Beaudoin

There is collective review, discussion, and scoring of the grant proposal.

Discussion of the presence of some forest resources and cold water fisheries.

Motion to Adjourn by Mark Carroulo, seconded by Karen Saucier.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Allison Logan