

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Governor's Advisory Committee on
Natural Heritage Preservation

Minutes of the Meeting

November 22, 2013 10:00AM
Conference Room 320C
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI

Members present: Larry Taft, Karen Saucier, Kevin Nelson, Lisa Primiano, Chairman
Members Absent: Mark Carrulo

The meeting commenced at 10:06.

1. Review of Block Island Land Trust Local Open Space Loan Application - Valente Property, New Shoreham – L. Primiano introduced the loan application from the Block Island Land Trust (BILT) for the 3.5 acre Valente property. The property is surrounded by other protected lands and is part of the Block Island Greenway. The property contains significant natural habitat, the federally endangered Burying Beetle and other species of state interest and concern. Committee members scored the application which received an average score of 66 points out of 100. The loan request is for a \$200,000, no interest loan. The request is less than 30% of the purchase price, and would be for an 18 month time period. Because of a legislated real estate transfer tax, the BILT receives on average over \$120,000 per month for preservation funding. On a motion by Larry Taft, second by Karen Saucier, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the application to the RI Natural Heritage Preservation Commission.
2. Discussion of 2014 Grant Round – The Committee was informed that there is still substantial funding available in the local open space grant program and DEM would like to advertise a new round of funding in Spring of 2014. New rules and regulations need to be developed for the new funds. Committee discussed the need for review and potential modifications to the scoring criteria. It was agreed that K. Nelson will work with L. Primiano to draft new rules and regulations for the 2014 program funds. A draft will be sent to all Committee members for input and comment.
3. Other Business – there being no other business, on a motion by Larry Taft, second by K. Nelson, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Primiano