

I. A regular meeting of the Scituate Land Trust and Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at the Chopmist Hill Senior Center, 1315 Chopmist Hill Road, N. Scituate. The meeting was called to order at 7:07PM by Conservation Vice Chair, C. Gianfrancesco.

II. Present: R. Strach, C. Gianfrancesco, R. Bower, A. Cimini, C. Newman, G. DeBlois,

S. Scanlon (arrived at 7:12PM)

Absent: T. Angell, D. Browne

Guests: Chris Modisette, Jacquelyn Moorehead, Joseph Bachand, Brunilda Velez

III. Motion made by C. Newman to approve the minutes of the regular LT/CC December 12, 2017 meeting as amended. Land Trust and Conservation Commission vote:

R. Strach – aye C. Gianfrancesco – aye A. Cimini – aye

R. Bower – aye G. Deblois – aye S. Scanlon – aye

Motion passes.

Motion made by C. Newman, seconded by G. Deblois to amend the agenda to move item V/1 “Budgeting for 2018” to be heard before Item V, on the agenda. Land Trust and Conservation Commission Vote:

R. Strach – aye C. Gianfrancesco – aye A. Cimini – aye

R. Bower – aye G. Deblois – aye S. Scanlon – aye

Motion passes.

***(V/1). Budgeting for 2018**

Members discussed the budget that was submitted for 2017. They agreed that the requested funding should remain the same. There was an error in the calculation on the Conservation Commission Budget, so members corrected the amount to be \$9875.00.

Motion made by R. Strach, seconded by C. Newman to approve the 2018 Conservation Commission Budget as corrected. Conservation Commission vote:

R. Strach – aye C. Gianfrancesco – aye R. Bower – aye

G. Deblois – aye S. Scanlon – aye

Motion passes.

Motion made by R. Bower, seconded by A. Cimini to approve the 2018 Land Trust budget as corrected. Land Trust Vote:

R. Strach – aye C. Gianfrancesco – aye A. Cimini – aye

R. Bower – aye S. Scanlon – aye

Motion passes.

IV. New LT/CC Business

1. Natural Resource Conservation Service Grants

Joe Bachand and Brunilda Velez introduced themselves and explained NRCS's Agricultural Conservation Easement programs. They stated there are two programs; the ACEP- Wetland Reserve

Easement Program (technical and financial assistance directly to private land owners), the second program is Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) (provides financial assistance to eligible partners, pay 50% of the fair market value of the easement).

ACEP Wetland Reserve Easement Program:

The intention of this program is to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on eligible private or Tribal lands while maximizing wildlife habitat benefits. There are 3 options; 30-year contract, 30-year easement, or permanent easement. Eligible land types for this program are farmed or converted wetlands, former or degraded wetlands, and some riparian areas.

ACEP Agricultural Land Easement Program:

The purpose of this program is to protect agricultural use or to protect grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring and conserving eligible land. This program is available to state and local governments, Indian Tribes, and certain non-governmental organizations. The entity must meet certain eligibility requirements.

For full discussion of the programs, please refer to the audio tape of the meeting, or the handout that was provided by Mr. Bachand and Ms. Velez (attached herein with minutes).

2. Correspondence

R. Bower encouraged members to attend the RI Land and Water

Conservation Summit at URI on March 10 and reminded them that they can be reimbursed for attending.

V. Unfinished LT/CC Business

1. Budgeting for 2018

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

2. Appointment/Reappointment of Land Trust and Conservation Commission members

C. Gianfrancesco explained that the Town Council has put out RFQ's for both the Land Trust and Conservation Commission members. When C. Gianfrancesco asked which positions were up for reappointment, she was advised that all members who would like to remain in their positions submit a letter of interest. Members discussed how they should respond to this to indicate they want to remain in their positions through their terms.

R. Bower stated that Dorinda Browne sent a letter of resignation from the Land Trust.

3. Properties

a. Lawton Farm

G. Deblois said that when he went out to do the soil samples, the ground was frozen solid. He will try to get out as soon as the ground begins to thaw.

b. Westconnaug Meadows

Nothing new to report.

c. Brightman Farm

Nothing new to report.

d. Esek Hopkins – property transfer/Quit Claim Deed

R. Bower will reach out to the Town Solicitor's Office to see where the deed stands.

e. Tasca Field

Nothing new to report.

f. Doctors Field Properties – Baseline Documentation

R. Bower stated that members, or representatives from the LT and CC, have been invited to the next Hope Associates meeting. T. Angell will attend.

4. Potential Solar and Wind Power Development

R. Bower said he got a letter from a company regarding solar and wind development. He said we should discuss this more at the next meeting.

5. Volunteers/Stewards/Affiliate Program

Nothing new to report.

6. Annual Meeting

G. Deblois said that he's reached out to Rick McKinney at URI twice regarding speaking at the annual meeting and has not received a response yet. Last time they spoke he was interested in being the speaker and was available. He will continue to reach out to him to confirm. G. Deblois is working on the annual report, he asked that anyone with pictures or details forward them to him as soon as possible. Members discussed getting something from Chris Modisette to add to the Annual report regarding the presentation he gave at last year's meeting and to the Town Council.

VI. LT/Con Com Audience Participation

Jacquelyn Moorehead from the Valley Breeze asked about the letter received about the potential solar and wind power. R. Bower said it was a very standard form letter.

VII. Motion made by R. Bower, seconded by A. Cimini to adjourn into Closed session pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5 (A) (2), discussion of land acquisition/ transfer and or/negotiation at 8:41 PM. Land Trust and Conservation Commission Vote:

R. Strach – aye C. Gianfrancesco – aye A. Cimini – aye

R. Bower – aye G. Deblois – aye S. Scanlon – aye

Motion passes.

VIII. Motion made by R. Strach, seconded by R. Bower to reconvene into open session at approximately 8:50 PM Land Trust and Conservation Commission Vote:

R. Strach – aye C. Gianfrancesco – aye A. Cimini – aye

R. Bower – aye G. Deblois – aye S. Scanlon – aye

Motion passes.

Motion made by R. Strach, seconded by G. Deblois to reaffirm that no votes were taken in Closed Session. Land Trust and Conservation Commission Vote:

R. Strach – aye C. Gianfrancesco – aye A. Cimini – aye

R. Bower – aye G. Deblois – aye S. Scanlon – aye

Motion passes.

Members discussed and decided on the potential recipient of the Alice Howard award and the gift to present.

Motion made by R. Strach, seconded by G. Deblois to allow the expenditure of up to \$200.00 for gifts for the Alice Howland recipient.

Land Trust and Conservation Commission Vote:

R. Strach – aye C. Gianfrancesco – aye A. Cimini – aye

R. Bower – aye G. Deblois – aye S. Scanlon – aye

Motion passes.

IX. Adjournment

Motion made by C. Newman, seconded by G. Deblois to adjourn both the regular Scituate Land Trust and Conservation Commission meeting at approximately 9:00 PM. Land Trust and Conservation

Commission vote:

R. Strach – aye C. Gianfrancesco – aye A. Cimini – aye

R. Bower – aye G. Deblois – aye S. Scanlon – aye

Motion passes.

For full discussion please refer to the audio tape of the meeting.

Recording Secretary

Marisa Marmaras