



LAND CONSERVANCY TRUST REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2017

Narragansett Town Hall
25 Fifth Avenue
Narragansett, RI 02882
(401) 789-1044

LAND CONSERVANCY TRUST

Chair

Thomas Rogers

Vice Chair

Terence Fleming

Secretary

Susan Bush

Members

Pati Sylvia

Brian Wagner

Jason Colonies

At a Regular Meeting of the Land Conservancy Trust of the Town of Narragansett held on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 5:00 p.m., at the Town Hall.

Present: Terence Fleming
Susan Bush
Thomas Rogers
Pati Sylvia
Matt Mannix
Brian Wagner (arrived at 5:18)

Not Present: Jill Lawler, Jason Colonies

Also in Attendance: Jill Sabo, Community Development; Shirley Eastham, Narragansett Historical Society

Convene: Tom Rogers convened the meeting at 5:05 [Note: The meeting was scheduled early so attendees could also attend the Narragansett Volunteer appreciation event at the Towers.]

Consent Agenda

Town Council Members

Matthew M. Mannix

Jill Lawler

Town Staff Liaisons

**Kinney Bungalow
Event Coordinator**

Daisy MacLeod

Community Development

Mike DeLuca

Jill Sabo

1C Minutes – Minutes of April 20, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. Terence Fleming moved, Pati Sylvia seconded, and so it was voted to approve the minutes from April 20, 2017. Terence Fleming, aye; Pati Sylvia, aye, Sue Bush, aye; Tom Rogers, aye.

2C Kinney Bungalow Report – There was no Kinney Bungalow Venue Report submitted for approval.

Discussion Topic Presented by Meeting Attendee

Shirley Eastham, President of the Narragansett Historical Society, presented for thought and possible future discussion, the idea of the Narragansett Historical Society having their office located on the first floor of Kinney Bungalow. She envisions that most formal large events like weddings would no longer take place, reducing many operating and maintenance costs for the building, and allowing better preservation and public access/tours of the Bungalow. Not all events would be precluded, however. She suggested the Bungalow would be a suitable site for lectures and smaller events like “The Taste of Newport.” Sue Bush, in full disclosure, noted that she also serves on the Board of the Narragansett Historical Society.

Regular Agenda

3R Recommendation to Town Council: Narrow River Preservation Association Planned Activities

The list of planned activities to be held by the Narrow River Preservation Association at Middlebridge/Narrow River was presented. Terence Fleming moved, and Sue Bush seconded, and so it was voted to recommend that the Town Council approve the NRPA activities submitted for the summer of 2017. Terence Fleming, aye; Sue Bush, aye, Tom Rogers, aye, Pati Sylvia, aye; Matt Mannix, aye.

4R Recommendation to Town Council: Kinney Bungalow HVAC System

The Board discussed the need for an HVAC system. – Topic delayed for a future meeting due to the need to adjourn early.

Adjournment: Brian Wagner moved, Terrence Fleming seconded, and so it is voted to adjourn at 5:40. Terence Fleming, aye; Brian Wagner, aye; Tom Rogers, aye; Sue Bush, aye; Pati Sylvia aye; Matt Mannix, aye.

Respectfully submitted:



Susan Bush, Secretary

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS
PRESENTED/AMENDED
7_20_17



Susan Bush, Secretary



Narrow River Preservation Association



Date: May 8, 2017

To: Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust, Narragansett, RI

From: Narrow River Preservation Association (contact: Veronica M. Berounsky, vmberounsky@uri.edu) and Narrow River Land Trust (contact: Julie Sharpe, juliesharpe55@gmail.com)

Re: Narrow River Education & Activity Center at Middlebridge, Summer 2017

In 2013, the Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) and Narrow River Land Trust (NRLT) in conjunction with the Town of Narragansett Park and Recreation Department launched the initial series of educational programs and family activities at the Town property at Middlebridge. It was very successful with many attentive participants and we have held similar events each year. We propose another series for this summer into fall. NRPA and NRLT share common interests to preserve, protect, and restore the environment and the quality of life for all communities within the Narrow River Estuary and its watershed and providing informational and educational opportunities to the public is an ideal way to promote those interests. The Middlebridge property is a location with unique attributes: central in the watershed, easy access to shallow water, and with panoramic views. For these reasons, it serves well as an educational and activities center and a starting point for events that increase awareness of the cultural and natural history of Narrow River. We will also hold an activity at this location for "Gansett Days".

Our format worked well the past four years and we plan to repeat it. Programs will take place once a month, June thru September, on a Saturday (except for the sunset kayak paddle). Inclement weather date will be the next day (except for "Gansett Days"). Activities will be located near the water and just north of the marina and adjacent building. We will be onsite approximately an hour before and an hour after the activities for setup and clean up. Parking will be in the Marina/Narrow River Kayak Overflow lot and listed times will not be in conflict with other activities going on at the property. Questions and reservations will be handled through the NRPA website, www.narrowriver.org . Registration (including liability waivers already approved by the Parks and Recreation Department) will be onsite. Activities will be free, though donations will be accepted for kayak rentals at the July paddle. The events will be advertised on the Town of Narragansett website calendar of events, in the local newspapers, and on educational listserves.



Narrow River Preservation Association



For the fourth season of the Center we propose a slate of programs similar to those in 2016:

What Lives in the River? (Saturday June 17th, 9 am – 11 am for general public, 11:30 am – 1 pm for Jonnycake Center families): An all ages introduction to common fish, shellfish, crabs and other inhabitants in the River. There will be hands-on seining with experts to catch river creatures and guided walks along the intertidal zone and salt marsh to observe the inhabitants. There will be river water tanks and microscopes to examine river creatures and guidebooks to help identify them. Experts will discuss the importance of estuaries as nurseries for fish & shellfish, the fascinating migration of river herring, and the role of river plants in the food web. Please wear footwear that can get wet.

Moon Rising Sunset Paddle (Friday, July 21st, beginning at 5:00 PM): The tenth Annual Pettaquamscutt Paddle, sponsored by Narrow River Kayaks, is an annual guided kayak paddle. After brief paddle and safety instruction and a presentation by NRPA board members, the guided sunset paddle takes paddlers into the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge at Pettaquamscutt Cove and to the beach near the mouth of the inlet for a stretch before returning to Middlebridge with the incoming tide as the sun gently sets on the western horizon. Stay around for refreshments, conversation and a raffle drawing.

Art on the River (Saturday, August 5, 9-11 am): Local artists will give instruction to adults in drawing and painting scenes of the Middlebridge area, while children will have their own guided artistic activities. Bring your easels or sketch pads or cameras to capture the beauty of this iconic site. Sketch your version of an expansive landscape view or crouch down and capture a still life view of oysters on the fringe of the salt marsh. In addition, “plein air” (open air) painters and other artists will be demonstrating their techniques. Or if you are more comfortable with electronic media, capture the sights with your camera, iphone or ipad and download photos real time to the NRPA Facebook page.

Land Trust Days (Saturday, September 9th, 5-8 pm): Our contribution to a state-wide celebration of special green spaces just outside your door. Join us for an all ages guided walk starting at Middlebridge and walking across the bridge to South Kingstown and through the Garrison House Acres Narrow River Land Trust property. This year's walk will focus on insects. Rick Enser of the Narrow River Land Trust and David Gregg of the RI Natural History Survey. Learn about the insects that inhabit the shoreline and fields and how we track them. To learn how climate change may be reflected in the insect life we will set up moth traps and use other techniques to record insect diversity and discover trends. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring binoculars, hand lens, and insect protection.

Gansett Days (Saturday September 16th) - As we did last year, we will do another of our popular “What Lives in the River?” events from 9-11 and another Narragansett marsh walk from 10-12. Please wear footwear that can get wet.