



**LAND CONSERVANCY TRUST
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2021**

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

**LAND
CONSERVANCY
TRUST**

Chair

Thomas Rogers

Vice Chair

Terence Fleming

Secretary

Jason Colonies

Members

Jerry Brunetto

Vacant

Pati Sylvia

Brian Wagner

Town Council Members

Jesse Pugh

Deborah Kopech

Town Staff Liaisons

**Kinney Bungalow
Event Coordinator**

Daisy MacLeod

Community Development

Mike DeLuca

Jill Sabo

At a Regular Meeting of the Land Conservancy Trust of the Town of Narragansett held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 5:30 pm, on Zoom

Present:

- Thomas Rogers, Chair
- Terry Fleming, Vice Chair
- Jerry Brunetto
- Pati Sylvia
- Brian Wagner
- Jason Colonies

Not Present:

- Jesse Pugh
- Deborah Kopech

Also, in Attendance: Jill Sabo, Community Development
David Avedisian

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1C Minutes:** Possible action to approve the regular meeting minutes from June 18, 2020, September 17, 2020, October 15, 2020 and December 17, 2020

Brian Wagner moved; Terence Fleming seconded to approve the minutes from a regular meeting of the Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust from June 18, 2020: Roll Call Brian Wagner aye, Terence Fleming aye, Thomas Rogers aye, Jason Colonies aye, Jerry Brunetto aye. 5-0

Terence Fleming moved; Pati Sylvia seconded to approve the minutes from a regular meeting of the Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust from September 17, 2020: Roll Call Terence Fleming aye, Pati Sylvia aye, Thomas Rogers aye, Jason Colonies aye, Brian Wagner aye. 5-0

Brian Wagner moved; Jerry Brunetto seconded to approve the minutes from a regular meeting of the Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust from October 15, 2020: Roll Call Brian Wagner aye, Jerry Brunetto aye, Thomas Rogers aye, Jason Colonies aye, Terence Fleming aye. 5-0

Terence Fleming moved; Brian Wagner seconded to approve the minutes from a regular meeting of the Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust from

December 17, 2020: Roll Call Terence Fleming aye, Brian Wagner aye, Thomas Rogers aye, Jason Colonies aye, Jerry Brunetto aye, Pati Sylvia aye. 6-0

2C Kinney Bungalow Report: Possible action to receive and place on file the Kinney Bungalow Monthly Report.

No vote was taken

REGULAR AGENDA

3R Election of Officers: Discussion and possible action to elect officers of the Trust for the 2021 calendar year.

Terence Fleming moved; Jerry Brunetto seconded to re-elect Thomas Rogers as the chair of the LCT: Roll Call Terence Fleming aye, Jerry Brunetto aye, Jason Colonies aye, Brian Wagner aye, Pati Sylvia aye, Thomas Rogers aye. 6-0

Jerry Brunetto moved; Jason Colonies seconded to re-elect Terence Fleming as the vice-chair of the LCT: Roll Call Jerry Brunetto aye, Jason Colonies aye, Thomas Rogers aye, Brian Wagner aye, Pati Sylvia aye, Terence Fleming aye. 6-0

Jerry Brunetto moved; Pati Sylvia seconded to re-elect Jason Colonies as the secretary of the LCT: Roll Call Jerry Brunetto aye, Pati Sylvia aye, Thomas Rogers aye, Brian Wagner aye, Terence Fleming aye, Jason Colonies aye. 6-0

4R Annual Report: Discussion and possible action to approve the 2020 Annual Report (attached)

Brian Wagner moved; Jason Colonies seconded to approve the 2020 annual report: Roll Call Brian Wagner aye, Jason Colonies aye, Thomas Rogers aye, Pati Sylvia aye, Terence Fleming aye, Jerry Brunetto aye. 6-0

5R Review performance of the Trust in 2020 and Goals for 2021: Discussion and possible action to approve the goals of the Trust for 2021. (Attached)

A discussion was had about the performance of the NCT in 2020 and the goals of the NCT in 2021. There were several volunteers for specific goals in 2021.

Terence Fleming volunteered to take a closer look at the land acquisition list and start approaching landowners. Thomas Rogers and Jason Colonies offered their help in this matter as well.

Jerry Brunetto and Brian Wagner volunteered to help coordinate removing the invasive species at Middlebridge.

Jerry Brunetto volunteered to help with outside field management at Sunset Farms.

Pati Sylvia volunteers to help with outside signage at Kinney Bungalow.

Thomas Rogers volunteers to help with linking all the hiking trails in Narragansett.

Thomas Rogers volunteers to help with the Harbor Island project.

Jerry Brunetto volunteers to help with the Crooked Brook East Project.

Thomas Rogers volunteers to help with the Crooked Brook West Project

Thomas Rogers volunteers to help with the Rotelli Property Project

Jason Colonies volunteers to help with mapping the trails at the Bay Campus. Brian Wagner volunteered to help if needed.

Jason Colonies moved; Pati Sylvia seconded to approve the goals for the NCT for 2021: Roll Call Jason Colonies aye, Pati Sylvia aye, Thomas Rogers aye, Brian Wagner aye, Terence Fleming aye, Jerry Brunetto aye. 6-0

6R: URI Fisher Cat Study: Discussion and possible action of recommendation to the Town Council for the allowance of URI to conduct a Fisher Cat Study on Town Property.

It was decided to Invite them in to speak for clarification before recommending to the Town Council.

7R: Adopt-A-Spot: Discussion and possible action to approve an Adopt-A-Spot on a portion of the Crooked Brook Trail.

Brian Wagner moved; Jerry Brunetto seconded to approve an Adopt-A-Spot on a portion of the Crooked Brook Trail: Roll Call Brian Wagner aye, Jerry Brunetto aye, Thomas Rogers aye, Jason Colonies aye, Terence Fleming aye, Pati Sylvia aye. 6-0

8R: Eagle Scout Project: Discussion and possible action approve an Eagle Scout Project.

A discussion was had. No vote was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian Wagner moved, and Jerry Brunetto seconded to adjourn at 6:46pm: Roll Call Brian Wagner aye, Jerry Brunetto aye, Thomas Rogers aye, Terence Fleming aye, Jason Colonies aye, Pati Sylvia aye. 6-0

Respectfully Submitted:



Jason Colonies, Secretary

Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust

Annual Report – 2020

Overview / Support

The Land Conservancy Trust (“Trust”) is organized under the provisions of Division 3 of the Town Charter

Section 2-101. – Established; purpose

1. Acquiring land, development rights and easements within the town, affording priority to environmentally sensitive lands;
2. Preserving open spaces, farmlands, scenic vistas, wetlands, estuaries, adjoining uplands and critical habitats;
3. Preserving land providing access to coastal waters; and
4. Preserving land for future public recreational and educational use

In addition, Section 2-105 (5) gives the Trust the responsibility to “Administer and manage land and interests in land held by it in a manner which allows public use and/or enjoyment consistent with the natural, historic and scenic resources of such land.” Under this provision, the Trust is responsible for the Middlebridge property and the Sunset Farm / Kinney Bungalow properties.

The Trust is supported by the Community Development department. The Parks & Recreation department oversees the day-to-day operation of these properties.

Land Acquisition

- The Trust worked to acquire a 4.4-acre parcel on South Pier Road for \$115,000. This property is adjacent to Town conservation property and near the large group of conserved parcels in the Crooked Brook area. The purchase and sales agreement was approved by the Town Council on January 19, 2020.
- The Trust made an offer for a parcel on Narrow River, but the offer was rejected.
- The Charter §2-106 requires that the town council annually budget a minimum of \$50,000 to be deposited into a fund. Because of the fiscal emergency caused by COVID-19 the Trust was asked to defer this deposit. On May 18, 2020, the Trust voted not to object to the town council not depositing the funds for FY 20/21, but that the Trust would receive the deposit in future years.
- A property donation policy was developed and approved by the Trust on September 17, 2020.
- Members of the Trust completed a detailed review of all parcels in Town which identified possible acquisitions against an established criterion.

Existing Properties

Middlebridge Conservation Land

- A photographic comparison of the establishment of the wetlands and upland meadows in the Conservation Area was completed two years after the baseline photographs were taken in 2018. Wenley Ferguson of Save the Bay toured the property and provided expert observations. A report of observations and recommendations were submitted to the Town Manager and Director of Parks & Recreation.

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NLCT Annual Report - 2020.docx

- The renovation of the Middlebridge marina building is underway to replace siding, doors, windows and trim before Spring 2021
- Planning continues to relocate the entrance of the Middlebridge Conservation Land working with the Town, CRMC, DEM and Save the Bay.
- The Trust on December 17, 2020 approved to recommend that the Town Council approve two resolutions to protect Town-owned conserved properties in perpetuity. These resolutions are to deem the properties as have having a ‘conservation restriction’ and as being held in the ‘public trust.’ These resolutions are planned to be Town Council agenda items on February 1, 2021.

Sunset Farm

- On October 3, 2020, Frances Topping, a local educator and naturalist, guided a Land Trust Days tour of the trail.
- A CRMC maintenance trail application was completed for two lateral trails off of the Sunset Farm Trail: one to Island View Road and the other down to Point Judith Pond. The application was prepared after a tour of the trails with two biologists from CRMC.

Trails

- Concept discussions were continued to better connect Trust and other conserved properties at Sunset Farm, Harbour Island, Crooked Brook, Town conservation property and Canonchet Farm trail. The aforementioned spur trail to Island View Road will connect Sunset Farm to Harbour Island trails.

Administrative

- The Trust participated in the annual Land & Water Summit sponsored by the Rhode Island Land Trust Council (“RILTC”) pm March 7, 2020.

Meetings, Membership and Attendance

During the year, Deb Kopech replaced Jill Lawler as a town council liaison at the December meeting. Attendance of trustees is shown in the attached table.

A motion was made by _____, seconded by _____, to approve the Annual Report for 2020.

That motion passed _____. (Thomas Rogers, _____)

Prepared by Thomas Rogers _____

Chair, Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust

The following table presents the attendance of trustees of the Land Conservancy Trust for CY 2020:

Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust		1/16/2020	2/20/2020	3/19/2020	4/16/2020	5/18/2020	5/21/2020	6/18/2020	7/9/2020	7/15/2020	8/20/2020	9/17/2020	10/15/2020	10/21/2020	10/28/2020	11/4/2020	11/19/2020	12/17/2020
Trust Attendance		Monthly	Monthly	Cancelled	Cancelled	Special \$50,000	Cancelled	Monthly	Special Wilson Road	Special Wilson Road	Cancelled	Monthly	Monthly	Special Q102	Special Q202	Special Q302	Monthly	Monthly
Thomas Rogers	Chair	x						x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Terence Fleming	Vice Chair / Planning	x	x					x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Jason Colonies	Secretary	x	x					x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Jerry Brunetto		x						x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Susan Bush		x	x					x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Paul Spada		x						x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Brian Wagner	Conservation Comm	x	x					x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Jesse Pugh	Town Council		x									x						
Bill Lawler	Town Council							x										n/a
Deb Kopech	Town Council																n/a	x

Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust

Draft Goals for 2020 - Results

Land Acquisition

1. Complete the preparation of the list of parcels for future consideration
 - a. Review 1st pass spreadsheet and rate all “possible” parcels according to evaluation criteria based on the Trust’s Acquisition Criteria - **COMPLETED**
2. Develop an outreach or acquisition strategy for each of the highest priority parcels on the spreadsheet - **continued into 2021**
3. Begin to implement this strategy with at least one parcel – **continued into 2021**
4. For federal, state properties, ensure that appropriate offices have current letters from the Town expressing our interest in acquiring these properties should they become surplus. – **to be continued into 2021, add City of Providence**
5. For the several large parcels on Point Judith Pond
 - a. Monitor the progress of permitting and licensing of this property
 - b. Ensure that the Land Trust is ‘next in line’ for this property
 - c. Continue to work with DEM on the grant for Coastal Wetland Conservation and the DEM Land Acquisition committee – **delete in 2021**
6. Continue to work with RIDOT to acquire parcel N-1-10 on Boston Neck Road – **delete as moot**

Existing Properties

7. Middlebridge Conservation Land
 - a. Ensure that recommendations of the 2017 management plan and its Conservation Plan are fully implemented- **COMPLETED**
 - i. Request periodic updates from town staff
 - ii. Monitor the CIP budgeting process for FY 20/21 and FY 21/22
 - iii. Monitor the mowing plan for spring/summer/fall seasons
 - iv. Work with Save the Bay and USFWS to cut the recommended runnel to the north of Middlebridge – **continued into 2021**
 - b. Perform photographic monitoring in 2020 - **COMPLETED**
 - i. Perform in August to be consistent with the baseline monitoring in 2018
 - ii. Discuss with RILTC about developing a formal baseline monitoring report for Middlebridge
8. Sunset Farm – **continue into 2021**
 - a. Complete the initial punch lists
 - b. Complete trail clearing, marking and signage to Island View Road
 - c. Complete trail clearing, marking and signage to Point Judith Pond
 - d. Review draft property description¹ and post on the NLCT website
 - e. Monitor proposed zoning change

¹ Draft from Chelsey Frost, August 2019

- f. Working with the Park & Recreation Department and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, apply for a grant to add bicycle racks at the trail head
- 9. Kinney Bungalow – **TO BE RECONSIDERED**
 - a. Install large lighted signs at entrance to Sunset Farm / Kinney Bungalow
 - i. Must include the language “Owned by the People of Narragansett”
- 10. Develop a long-term plan to establish and link all trails in Narragansett
 - a. Create a comprehensive list of all trails in Town – **to be completed in 2021**
 - b. Harbour Island – **continued into 2021**
 - i. Clear a trail extension to Beach Plum Road from parcel Y-1-7-12
 - ii. Add trail signage at both ends of the existing trail
 - iii. Add blazes where needed
 - iv. Create digital map
 - v. Curate trail and post on ExploreRI and AllTrails
 - c. Crooked Brook Trail – East – **continued into 2021**
 - i. Walk the trails to assess condition
 - ii. Meet with Director of the Middlebridge School to determine the extent of their adoption of what they refer to as “Hazard Trail”²
 - 1. Ask about interest in allowing / encouraging walkers to travel from Gibson Ave / Kendall Court down the paper Hazard Avenue through the Middlebridge area to Ocean Avenue /Hazard Avenue
 - 2. Contact the owner of F-44-A to ask about interest in allowing / encouraging walkers to traverse the existing trail from Kendall Court to the paper Hazard Road
 - iii. Work to improve the trail
 - iv. Obtain and mount trail signage
 - v. Create digital map
 - vi. Curate trail and post on ExploreRI and AllTrails
 - d. Crooked Brook Trail – West – **continued into 2021**
 - i. Walk the trails to assess condition
 - ii. Work to improve the trails
 - iii. Obtain and mount trail signage and blazes
 - iv. Create digital map
 - v. Curate trail and post on ExploreRI and AllTrails
 - vi. Support the Community Development’s efforts to establish a new trail between the existing Crooked Brook Trail and South Pier Road
 - e. Rotelli property – **continued into 2021**
 - i. Monitor the removal of the refuse, building and loam.
 - ii. Identify the old trail from Sunset Farm to Foddering Farm Road
 - iii. Determine if there are any available spaces for parking on Foddering Farm Road, perhaps across the street on Chafee NWR property
 - iv. Mark and clear
 - v. Create digital map

² Mike Deluca – May we obtain the monthly reports?

- vi. Obtain and mount trail signage and blazes
- vii. Curate trail and post on ExploreRI and AllTrails
- f. Bay Campus trails – **continued into 2021**
 - i. Create digital map
 - ii. Discuss trail marking with URI
 - iii. Curate trail and post on ExploreRI and AllTrails
- g. Create an overall communications plan for all of the existing public trails in Narragansett – **continue into 2021**
 - i. Review existing information on AllTrails and ExploreRI
 - ii. Create and distribute digital maps as needed
 - iii. Curate any trails and post as needed
 - iv. Create informational materials; post and distribute as appropriate
 - v. Place trail and Land Trust information materials in the Narragansett Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center.

Administrative

- 11. Conduct an annual inspection of all properties
- 12. Participate in ‘Gansett Days’
- 13. Continue to improve the NLCT webpages with additional content and links
- 14. Study the advisability of establish a separate Land Trust non-profit organization including:
 - a. The legal, financial, insurance and tax considerations,
 - b. The potential interest in the community of supporting such an entity;
 - c. The administrative impacts in cost and time which would be required; and
 - d. The process to be followed to set up and to grow such an effort.

Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust
Draft Goals for 2021

Land Acquisition

1. For the 1st pass inventory, develop an outreach or acquisition strategy for each of the highest priority parcels on the spreadsheet.
2. Begin to implement this strategy with at least one parcel.
3. For federal, state and City of Providence properties, ensure that appropriate offices have current letters from the Town expressing our interest in acquiring these properties should they become surplus.
4. For the several large parcels on Point Judith Pond
 - a. Monitor the progress of permitting and licensing of this property
 - b. Ensure that the Land Trust is 'next in line' for this property

Existing Properties

5. Middlebridge Conservation Land
 - a. Work with the Town staff, CRMC, DEM and Save the Bay to relocate the entrance the entrance and to remove the hard surfaces along the river in front of the buildings.
 - b. Ensure that recommendations of the 2017 management plan and its Conservation Plan are fully implemented
 - i. Request periodic updates from town staff
 - ii. Monitor the CIP budgeting process for FY 20/21 and FY 21/22
 - iii. Monitor the mowing plan for spring/summer/fall seasons
 - iv. Work with Save the Bay and USFWS to cut the recommended runnel to the north of Middlebridge
 - c. Perform photographic monitoring in 2022
 - i. Perform in August to be consistent with the baseline monitoring in 2018
 - ii. Discuss with RILTC about developing a formal baseline monitoring report for Middlebridge
 - d. Update the Management Plan in 2022
6. Sunset Farm
 - a. Complete the initial punch lists
 - b. Complete trail clearing, marking and signage to Island View Road
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 - a. Create a comprehensive list of all trails in Town

- b. Harbour Island
 - i. Clear a trail extension to Beach Plum Road from parcel Y-1-7-12; review the existing conservation easements on Y-1-7-13 & 14 which may allow public use on a trail, which already exist
 - ii. Add trail signage at both ends of the existing trail
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 - iv. Create digital map
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 - ii. Discuss trail marking with URI
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 - b. The potential interest in the community of supporting such and entity;
 - c. The administrative impacts in cost and time which would be required; and
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