

Scituate Conservation Commission and Scituate Land Trust

Joint Meeting, 7:00 p.m., March 8, 2022

I. Call to Order

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY
 Posted on Friday, March 4, 2022

Scituate Conservation Commission and Scituate Land Trust
 1315 Chopmist Hill Road, N. Scituate, 02857
 Chopmist Hill Center

Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Joint Meeting 7:00 pm

AGENDA

- I. Conservation Commission (CC)/Land Trust (LT) Regular Meeting Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Welcome Guests
- V. Approval of Minutes: Executive/Closed Session Meeting January 11, 2022;
 Regular Joint Meeting February 8, 2022
- VI. American Rescue Plan Act funding proposals
 - A. Prioritize recommendations from previous list
 - B. Hope Septic/Sewer Feasibility Study
 - C. Sidewalks, Pathways, and Trails
- VII. Grant Awards and Requests: Discussion and/or action
 - A. DEM Recreational Trails Program Grant Award
 - B. Congressional Appropriations Grant Request
 - C. DEM Recreation Development Grant Application
 - D. Other
- VIII. Scituate Solar Ordinance: Discussion and/or action
- IX. Revised Stormwater, Soil Erosion and Sediment Control ordinance: Discussion and/or action
- X. Comprehensive Plan update
- XI. Annual Meeting: Discussion and/or action
- XII. Conservation Commission Business: Discussion and/or action
 - A. Purchasing
 - 1. Clerk Pay (Jan.-March 2022): \$250.00
 - 2. Zoom Tech Support: 1/11/22 \$105; 2/1/22 \$35 Total=\$140; CC pays \$70
 - 3. Weebly Annual Web Hosting: \$105.93
 - B. Lawton Farm Annual Bird Count update
 - C. Lawton Farm Mowing update
 - D. Arbor Day reminder: April 1 at ~~Clayville~~ School
 - E. Earth Day Projects
 - 1. ~~Esek~~ Hopkins Park, April 23
 - 2. Forestry Education Day for the Scituate Jr./Sr. High Environmental Club,
 April 26 at ~~Esek~~ Hopkins Park (Partnering with the Northern RI Conservation District): To include tree planting and deer protection installation
 - 3. Other? (Rotary Club activities/ invasive plant control)
 - F. Property Monitoring
- XIII. Land Trust Business: Discussion and/or action
 - A. Purchasing: Clerk Pay (Jan.-March 2022): \$250.00
 - B. Green Forest walk
 - C. Request for use of Brightman Farm
 - D. GIS and legislation update:
 Malcolm ~~Drentell~~, AmeriCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator
- XIV. CC/LT Board Member comments/announcements
- XV. CC/LT Adjournment

INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING INTERPRETER SERVICES FOR THE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING MUST CALL 647-2822 SEVENTY-TWO (72) HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING. TTY #1-800-745-5555.

Agenda

II. Pledge of Allegiance



III. Roll Call

CC/LT Contact List (updated December 2020)

Angell, Thomas
tangellfarm@verizon.net
 CC (Chair) /LT

Avery, Laureen
laureenavery@gmail.com
 LT

Bower, Robert
robbower@aol.com
 CC/LT (Chair)

Cimini, Anna
amcimini@gmail.com
 LT

DeBlois, Gary
garydb12@gmail.com
 CC

Frederickson, William
billyemrick@gmail.com
 CC

Gianfrancesco, Cynthia
gleanergardens@cox.net
 CC/LT (Vice-Chair)

Sayer, Matthew
Msayer87@yahoo.com
 LT

Smith, Kimberly
ksmith@graypape.com
 CC

Venditelli, Brian
bvenditelli@rpiannuccillo.com
 LT/CC (Vice-Chair)

Term ending dates as published on Town of Scituate web site

3 yr. term					
Conservation Commission	Thomas W	Angell	11/30/2022	Chair	*DUAL MEMBER
Conservation Commission	Gary	DeBlois	11/30/2022	Member	
Conservation Commission	William	Frederickson	11/30/2024	Member	
Conservation Commission	Cynthia	Gianfrancesco	11/30/2023	Member	*DUAL MEMBER
Conservation Commission	Kimberly	Smith	11/30/2023	Member	
Conservation Commission	Brian	Venditelli	11/30/2023	Vice-Chair	*DUAL MEMBER
Conservation Commission	Robert	Bower	11/30/2024	Member	*DUAL MEMBER
5 yr. term					
Land Trust	Cynthia	Gianfrancesco	11/30/2022	Vice-Chair	*DUAL MEMBER
Land Trust	Robert	Bower	11/30/2026	Chair	*DUAL MEMBER
Land Trust	Laureen	Avery	11/30/2025	Member	
Land Trust	Anna	Cimini	11/30/2026	Member	
Land Trust	Thomas W	Angell	11/30/2023	Member	*DUAL MEMBER
Land Trust	Brian	Venditelli	11/30/2022	Member	*DUAL MEMBER
Land Trust	Matthew	Sayer	11/30/2024	Member	

IV. Welcome Guests

V-a. Approval of Exec./Closed Session Meeting Minutes: January 11, 2022

V-b. Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 8, 2022

Scituate Conservation Commission and Scituate Land Trust
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Joint Meeting 7:00 pm

MINUTES

- I. **Conservation Commission (CC)/Land Trust (LT) Regular Meeting Call to Order.** A joint meeting of the Scituate Land Trust and Conservation Commission was held via Zoom on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by CC Chair T. Angell.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Present: Tom Angell, Rob Bower, Anna Cimini, Lauren Avery, Cindy Gianfrancesco, Matt Sayer, Kim Smith. Absent: Brian Venditelli, Bill Frederickson, Gary DeBlois.
- IV. **Welcome Guests.** Paul Dolan, Kristina Soprano.
- V. **Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting January 11, 2022; Special Meeting Feb. 1, 2022.**

Motion by C. Gianfrancesco, seconded by M. Sayer, to approve the minutes of the regular joint Scituate LT and CC meeting of February 8, 2022, as amended. All in favor. Motion passes.

Motion by C. Gianfrancesco, seconded by L. Avery, to approve the minutes of the special joint Scituate LT and CC meeting of February 1, 2022. K. Smith abstained. All others in favor. Motion passes.
- VI. **Grant Awards and Requests: Discussion and/or action**
 - A. **DEM Recreational Trails Program Grant Award.** Found out that a wetland permit for the parking lot isn't needed.
 - B. **Congressional Appropriations Grant Request.** No update.
 - C. **DEM Recreational Grant Application.** No update.
- VII. **Scituate Solar Ordinance: Discussion and/or action.** C. Gianfrancesco will present a summary of the letter at the Thursday, 1/10/22 Town Council meeting and request that the letter be formally entered into the record. The letter has been posted on the Town website (along with the draft ordinance and the Town Council meeting agenda).
- VIII. **GIS update: Malcolm Drenttel, AmeriCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator.** Something to think about for Esek Hopkins (when it's decided over) and Westcomms. R. Bower will circulate Malcolm's PowerPoint presentation to CC/LT members and will invite Malcolm to a future meeting.
- IX. **Conservation Commission Business: Discussion and/or action**
 - A. **Lawton Farm Annual Bird Count.** Haven't seen the results yet; R. Bower will continue to reach out.
 - B. **Arbor Day update: Paul Dolan.** Met with the Principal at Clayville Elementary School- they're all set for the ceremony on Arbor Day (April 29, 2022) beginning at 9:30 am. They'll plant two trees, one for grades K-2 and one for grades 3-5. Paul will select both trees and will draft a proclamation for the Town Council.

Motion by T. Angell, seconded by C. Gianfrancesco, to approve up to \$350.00 out of the CC budget for two trees and mulch for the Arbor Day planting. All in favor. Motion passes.

C. Possible Earth Day Projects

1. **Tree Planting and Deer Guard Project at Esek Hopkins Park.** C. Gianfrancesco met with Molly Allard (NRICD) and Beth Travers (Junior High and High School teacher) to plan a day-long field trip for members of the school's environmental club (grade six and up). Beth submitted a request for approval for the students to participate. The plan is to have them help put up tree guards, plant trees, and rotate through educational stations that Molly will set up. The tentative date is April 26 with a rain date of April 27.
2. **Partnering with the Sustainability/Recycling Committee.** C. Gianfrancesco is now on this committee (soon to be called the Sustainability Committee). They'd like to partner with the CC on this year's Earth Day cleanup on April 23; the CC could set up at Esek Hopkins and do a clean-up of the parking lot and along the road, and perhaps do some invasives removal (mile-a-minute vine is easy to pull out that time of year).

Rob has been in touch with a resident named Jen Miller who's concerned about bittersweet on her property (and bordering Esek Hopkins property) and volunteered to help with its removal (she would work with licensed arborist Stanley Tree). She's spoken with Rich Blodgett at Providence Water as well. C. Gianfrancesco is happy to work with her and suggested that the CC look into getting a certificate of insurance from the Town if working with Stanley Tree.

- D. **Property Monitoring.** C. Gianfrancesco visited at Esek Hopkins approximately three weeks ago and found everything to be looking good. R. Bower spoke to a resident about the use of four-wheelers on the property. While the DPW has been good about clearing the parking lot at Lawton Farm, recently everything was pushed up against the gate and froze, impeding emergency access. R. Bower will speak with Kirk Loiselle with the Town Department of Public Works.

X. Land Trust Business: Discussion and/or action

- A. **Purchasing: Web site domain renewal \$39.95.** R. Bower made the payment and will seek reimbursement out of the CC budget.
- B. **Transfer \$8,000 unspent budgeted funds to Open Space reserve account.** Motion by T. Angell, seconded by M. Sayer, the transfer \$8K of unspent budgeted funds to the Open Space reserve account. All in favor. Motion passes.
- C. **Right of way signage at Lawton Farm.** The sign was moved upon R. Bower's request.
- D. **American Rescue Plan Act funding proposals.** TC expressed an interest in a wide scope of potential projects throughout the town, preferably things that aren't already regularly budgeted for. R. Bower suggests a sidewalk/pathway/trail initiative (e.g., \$100K+ to hire consultants to look at potential connections, where to put crosswalks, where to connect trails). R. Bower will resend the list of suggestions to the Town Council.
- E. **Green Forest walk.** Tentatively planned for this Saturday, 2/12/22, at noon. R. Bower spoke with legal counsel who advised that if there's a quorum to be sure not to discuss any CC/LT business (which may take place afterward at a future meeting).

XI. **CC/LT Board Member comments/announcements.** None.

XII. **CC/LT Adjournment.** Motion by C. Gianfrancesco, seconded by L. Avery, to adjourn the regular meeting of the Scituate Land Trust and Conservation Commission on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at approximately 8:06 PM. All in favor. Motion passes.

Jennifer West, Scituate LT/CC Clerk

VI. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Proposals

(\$3.2 million available to Scituate – few restrictions. Commit by 12/2024. Spend by 12/2026.)

- See our list from 2021 of potential infrastructure projects

Additional Proposals:

1. Hope Village Septic/Sewer Feasibility Study
2. Sidewalks, Pathways, and Trails Project

How to structure proposals.

How much money to request.

Conservation Commission and Land Trust

Potential infrastructure projects related to our work:

- Footbridge over the Pawtuxet River below the Hope Mill project: Hope Associates has investigated this idea in the past, and there is the potential to partner with the Hope Mill developer who is obligated to donate land or resources to trails as part of renovating the old mill buildings into housing. Such a footbridge would serve to link existing public lands and trails to a beautiful parcel on the far side of the river that is difficult to access without crossing private property and because of a scarcity of available parking. Further investigation is necessary to gain access to the village side of the river where there are existing bridge pilings.
- Renovation of historic “Town Hall”: The original Town Hall now on the Department of Public Works site was moved from the Village of Richmond after the village was razed when the Scituate Reservoir was built. That building originally housed town records and could again be renovated to safely store historic town records and plat maps. The Conservation Commission and the Land Trust could certainly use a home for files and a place to meet and greet the public. An infrastructure proposal could include moving this building to a more accessible location and be a showcase for our Town.
- The Town Council has discussed the need for better access to Hemlock Road above Ponaganset Falls. Perhaps a parking lot could be built below the falls with a trail connecting to the closed section of Hemlock Road.
- The placement of electric charging stations at trail heads and other public locations could both attract visitors and help do our part to cut carbon emissions.
- A careful assessment should be made of the need for public restrooms at parks and recreational areas. Any projects should require annual budgeting of funds for cleaning and upkeep and monitoring to ensure access under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Discussed at CC/LT Meeting on April 13, 2021

Recommended to the Town Council May 28, 2021

VII. Grant Awards & Requests: Discussion and/or Action

- A. DEM Recreational Trails Program Grant Award
- B. Congressional Appropriations Grant Request
- C. DEM Recreational Development Grant Application
- D. Other

From: michelle.sheehan@dem.ri.gov,
To: lisa.mcgreavy@dem.ri.gov,
Subject: DEM Recreational Trails Grants
Date: Tue, Nov 23, 2021 2:31 pm

Greetings 2021 Recreational Trail Grant Awardees:

There have been some changes in the Recreational Trails Grant Program that I wanted to make you aware of since these changes have led to delays in issuing approvals to proceed with your grant project.

In addition to recent retirements at DOT, Gregg Cassidy who managed the DEM Recreation Trails Program for many years has retired from state service. Lisa McGreavy is now the new program contact person here at DEM and is available to answer your questions. She can be reached at lisa.mcgreavy@dem.ri.gov or 401.222-4700 Ext. 277-7611.

The grant awards announced in July 2021 are contingent upon a new environmental review process, as required by DOT. Another new programmatic change is that we are now required to hire a contractor to oversee these reviews. We plan to have someone on board soon so although the timeline is tentative, we hope to issue you a formal Notice to Proceed in early spring 2022. We will keep you informed of any changes once we know more.

In the meantime, Lisa will be contacting you to finalize your project Scope of Work and grant agreements. Please be reminded that no work is authorized to begin until grant contracts are in place and you receive a Notice to Proceed from DEM.

Your patience has been greatly appreciated! Thank you.

Michelle Sheehan

Michelle Sheehan

State Land Conservation Program Manager

DIVISION OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Rhode Island DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

VIII. Solar Ordinance: Discussion and/or Action

- Public hearing has been delayed pending review by Plan Commission. Written input by April 12 requested.
- See Town Council Agenda for 2/10/22. Link from Public Hearing includes the draft Ordinance for first reading along with our letter to the TC and the Plan Commission.
- Strategy for support



JEFFREY C. HANSON, P.E., CHAIRMAN
NICHOLAS PIAMPIANO, P.E.
V. GEORGE MITOLA, JR.
LINDA L. CWIEK

March 7, 2022

Ms. Abbie Groves, President
Scituate Town Council
195 Danielson Pike
Scituate, RI 02857

RE: Renewable Energy Ordinance
Draft Ordinance No. 21-02

Dear President Groves:


As you know the Town Council has asked that the Scituate Plan Commission to revisit the writing of the Renewable Energy Ordinance to address comments presented to the Council by the Scituate Land Trust and Conservation Commission and the Hope Jackson Fire Company.

At the request of the Town Council the Plan Commission was charged in April of 2019 to begin the process to address potential development, construction and management of "Green Energy" projects in the Town including provisions for solar energy ordinances. During the process of creating the draft ordinance the Plan Commission had multiple public meetings and received a lot of valuable comments from interested parties. During this process draft ordinances were posted on the Towns Web Site for any interested parties to review and comment. It was always the Plan Commissions position to keep the process open and solicit as much input for the public and other interested Boards and Commissions.

As such I am writing to respectfully request that while the Plan Commission is reviewing the comments recently submitted, that any other comments from interested parties, whether it be the Town Council or other Boards and Commissions in the Town be provided to the Plan Commission in writing. This will allow the Plan Commission to review the comments and revise the ordinance to incorporate the interests of all and provide a comprehensive Renewable Energy Ordinance for the Town of Scituate. I further ask that all such comments be provided before April 12, 2022, for consideration at the Plan Commission's April 19, 2022 meeting.

Thank you for your assistance in the process.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey C. Hanson
Chairman

IX. Revised Stormwater, Soil Erosion and Sediment Control ordinances: Discussion and/or Action

- Plan Commission to update the Town ordinances pertaining to stormwater, soil erosion and sediment control (Feb. 15, 2022, agenda)

X. Comprehensive Plan update

- See Town web site for overview. Detailed drafts not yet available.

XI. Annual Meeting: Discussion and/or Action

- Date/time?
- Format?
- Task assignments
- The Alice M. Howland Conservation Award

recognizes an individual, group or organization that has rendered outstanding service, either recently or over a period of years, to natural resource conservation in the Town of Scituate. The award is in the memory of Alice M. Howland, formerly of Hope, one of Scituate's pioneers. An 1896 graduate of Vassar College, Ms. Howland donated her large barn and farm property along Hope Pont to the town in 1932 to be used by the village as a community and recreation center. Today, Hope Associates carries on her legacy and continues to provide these opportunities to citizens of town at this location. In 1951 she became the first certified Tree Farmer in Scituate. Her family's interest in conservation can be traced back to their interest in forestry and tree planting efforts they undertook on the family farm as early as 1913.

XII. Conservation Commission Business:

Discussion and/or Action

A. Purchasing

1. Clerk Pay (Jan. – March 2022): \$250
2. Zoom Tech Support: \$70
3. Weebly Annual Web Hosting: \$99

B. Lawton Farm Annual Bird Count update

C. Lawton Farm Mowing update

D. Arbor Day reminder: April 29 at Clayville School >

E. Earth Day Projects

1. Esek Hopkins Park, April 23
2. Forestry Education Day for the Scituate Jr./Sr. High School
Environmental Club, April 26 at Esek Hopkns Park
(Partnering with the Northern RI Conservation District)
To include tree planting and protection installation.
3. Other activities?

F. Property Monitoring

Where are we?

Arbor Day is Friday April 29, 2022

Times right now are 1/2 school at 9:45 am and second half at 10:30 am

Will meet with Principal and staff on site this Friday at 2pm

Nursery has been contacted, no problem getting tree

Mulch has been procured

Proclamation has been sent to the Town Council President and will be on the April agenda

I have shovels and assorted hand tools.

I'm leaving invitation list to the School

XIII. Land Trust Business: Discussion and/or Action

A. Purchasing: Clerk Pay (Jan. – March 2022): \$250

B. Green Forest walk

C. Request for use of Brightman Farm

D. GIS and legislation update:

Malcolm Drenttel, AmeriCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator

On Jan 26, 2022, at 11:40 AM, Malcolm Drenttel <mdrenttel@rilandtrusts.org> wrote:

Hello,

My name is Malcolm and I'm the new AmeriCorps service member over at the Rhode Island Land Trust Council. I'm reaching out to all the land trusts that already have ArcGIS accounts to see how things are going and whether you are in need of additional support. Have you been using GIS for trail tracking, easement monitoring, or anything else? Do you think your members would be interested in another training session? I'm just writing to introduce myself and to let you know that the Land Trust Council is continuing to offer support for GIS related projects. Please don't hesitate to let me know if there's anything else I can help with.

best,

--

Malcolm Drenttel | AmeriCorps Land Stewardship Coordinator
Rhode Island Land Trust Council
mdrenttel@rilandtrusts.org
860.248.5463

XIV. CC/LT Member comments/announcements

Summit Speaker Series begins with: "Be Ready for Ticks" featuring URI's Tick Guy, Dr. Tom Mather. This event will be held on March 12 both in person at URI or virtually! To register email Candace Powning or call the Council at 401-212-0832.

2020 Rhode Island Land Trust Conservation & Stewardship Accomplishments, Activities, and Practices - Survey Highlights: *see March 2 RI Land Trust eNews*

XV. CC/LT Adjournment