

# Scituate Conservation Commission and Scituate Land Trust

Joint Meeting, 7:00 p.m., September 14, 2021

## **I. Call to Order**

Posted on Friday, September 10, 2021

Scituate Conservation Commission and Scituate Land Trust

1315 Chopmist Hill Road, N. Scituate, 02857

Chopmist Hill Center

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

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 Meeting Minutes: July 13, 2021
- VI. Grant Awards and Requests: Discussion and/or action
  - A. Recreational Trails Program Grant Award
    - 1. Wetlands permitting for boardwalks update and trail location
  - B. Congressional Appropriations Grant Request
  - C. Open Space Grant Applications
- VII. Annual Meeting: Review and discuss plans for next year
- VIII. Comprehensive Plan: Discussion and updates
- IX. Conservation Commission Business: Discussion and/or action
  - A. Property Monitoring
    - 1. Lawton Farm – Hayfield management: lime, fertilize, spray?
    - 2. Esek Hopkins Park – treat invasives plants? Wildlife camera.
    - 3. Trail clearing after the storms
    - 4. Trail counter?
  - B. Board position reappointments and/or search
  - C. Troop 1 North Scituate request for Haunted Trail at Esek Hopkins Park, Oct. 30
- X. Land Trust Business: Discussion and/or action
  - A. Land Trust Days: kickoff recap, other walks?
  - B. Board position reappointments and/or search
- XI. CC/LT Board Member comments/announcements
  - A. Rally 2021
- XII. CC/LT – Possible Motion(s) to Convene into Executive/Closed Session –  
 The Conservation Commission and Land Trust may vote to move into Executive/Closed session pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5 (a) (5) Real Estate, specifically regarding possible acquisition and/or transfer of real estate for open space and/or conservation purposes, including the potential acquisition of lots that may fit the criteria in the recent \$3 million Open Space grant announcement by the Department of Environmental Management. Discussion and/or Potential action, announcement and/or vote(s) from Executive Session and/or Open Session concerning possible acquisition and/or transfer of real estate for open space and/or conservation purposes, including the potential acquisition of open space candidates that may fit the criteria in the recent \$3 million Open Space grant announcement by the Department of Environmental Management.

- XIII. CC/ LT – Reconvene Regular Meeting – Discussion and/or potential action, announcement and/or vote(s) from Executive Session and/or Open Session regarding potential acquisition of open space candidates that may fit the criteria in the recent \$3 million Open Space grant announcement by the Department of Environmental Management.
- XIV. CC/LT Adjournment

## II. Pledge of Allegiance



# III. Roll Call

## CC/LT Contact List (updated December 2020)

Angell, Thomas  
[tangellfarm@verizon.net](mailto:tangellfarm@verizon.net)  
 CC (Chair) /LT

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 LT

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 CC/LT (Chair)

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 LT

DeBlois, Gary  
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 CC

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 CC

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 CC/LT (Vice-Chair)

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 CC

Venditelli, Brian  
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 LT/CC (Vice-Chair)

## Term ending dates as published on Town of Scituate web site

Board Name	First Name	Last Name	End Date	Title
<b>3 yr. term</b>				
Conservation Commission	Thomas W	Angell	11/20/2022	Chair
Conservation Commission	Gary	DeBlois	11/30/2022	Member
Conservation Commission	William	Frederickson	11/30/2021	Member
Conservation Commission	Cynthia	Gianfrancesco	11/30/2023	Member
Conservation Commission	Kimberly	Smith	11/30/2023	Member
Conservation Commission	Brian	Venditelli	11/30/2023	Vice-Chair
Conservation Commission	Robert	Bower	11/30/2021	Member
<b>5 yr. term</b>				
Land Trust	Cynthia	Gianfrancesco	11/30/2022	Vice-Chair
Land Trust	Robert	Bower	11/30/2021	Chair
Land Trust	Laureen	Avery	11/30/2025	Member
Land Trust	Anna	Cimini	11/30/2021	Member
Land Trust	Thomas W	Angell	11/30/2023	Member
Land Trust	Brian	Venditelli	11/30/2022	Member
Land Trust	Matthew	Sayer	11/30/2024	Member

## IV. Welcome Guests

# V. Approval of Meeting Minutes: July 13, 2021

## Scituate Conservation Commission and Scituate Land Trust

### Regular and Annual Meeting

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Esek Hopkins Park, Corner of Batten Meetinghouse Road and Danielson Pike, N. Scituate,  
02857; By internet at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83188441980?pwd=ZmZNNepS3VQZHhsQ0JRYW13TnBNQT09>

### MINUTES

- I. **Conservation Commission (CC)/Land Trust (LT) Regular and Annual Meeting**  
**Call to Order.** A joint and annual meeting of the Scituate Land Trust and Conservation Commission was held at Esek Hopkins Park and via Zoom on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by CC Chair T. Angell.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
- III. **Roll Call.** Present: Tom Angell, Rob Bower, Bill Frederickson, Brian Venditelli, Anna Cimini, Kim Smith, Laureen Avery, Gary DeBlois, Cindy Gianfrancesco, Matt Sayer.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes for June 2021 Meeting.** Motion by B. Venditelli, seconded by G. DeBlois, to approve the minutes of the regular joint Scituate LT and CC meeting of June 8, 2021, as amended. All in favor. **Motion passes.**
- V. **CC/LT Business: Discussion and/or Action**
  - A. **Purchasing approvals**
    1. **DEM application for preliminary wetland determination at Lawton Farm: \$300.** Already approved at a previous meeting.
    2. **Zoom Meetings 4/13/21 and 5/11/21: \$180 (CC pays \$90; LT pays \$90)**
    3. **Stipend for Annual Meeting speaker: \$200**  
Motion by T. Angell, seconded by C. Gianfrancesco, to approve payment for items two and three above (total expense split between LT and CC). All in favor. **Motion passes.**
  - B. **Date change for August meeting from second Tuesday to first Tuesday: August 3**
  - C. **Correspondence/Updates**
    1. **Land Trust Days walk at Lawton Farm: Friday, August 20, 5:30 p.m.**
- VI. **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Scituate Conservation Commission and Scituate Land Trust**
  1. **Alice Howland Award – presented by Cindy Gianfrancesco.** C. Gianfrancesco invited Ruth Strach to talk about the Alice Howland award. C. Gianfrancesco then presented the 2021 Alice Howland award to Ruth Strach.
  2. **Announcements – Rob Bower.** R. Bower welcomed guests, talked about the books *Finding the Mother Tree* by Suzanne Simard and *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben, recognized Town Council members and Town staff, thanked NRICD for donating tree saplings, and announced the \$99,533 town-wide trail improvement grant that the LT and CC received.
  3. **Introduction of Speaker – Tom Angell.** T. Angell introduced annual meeting guest speaker Marc Tremblay.

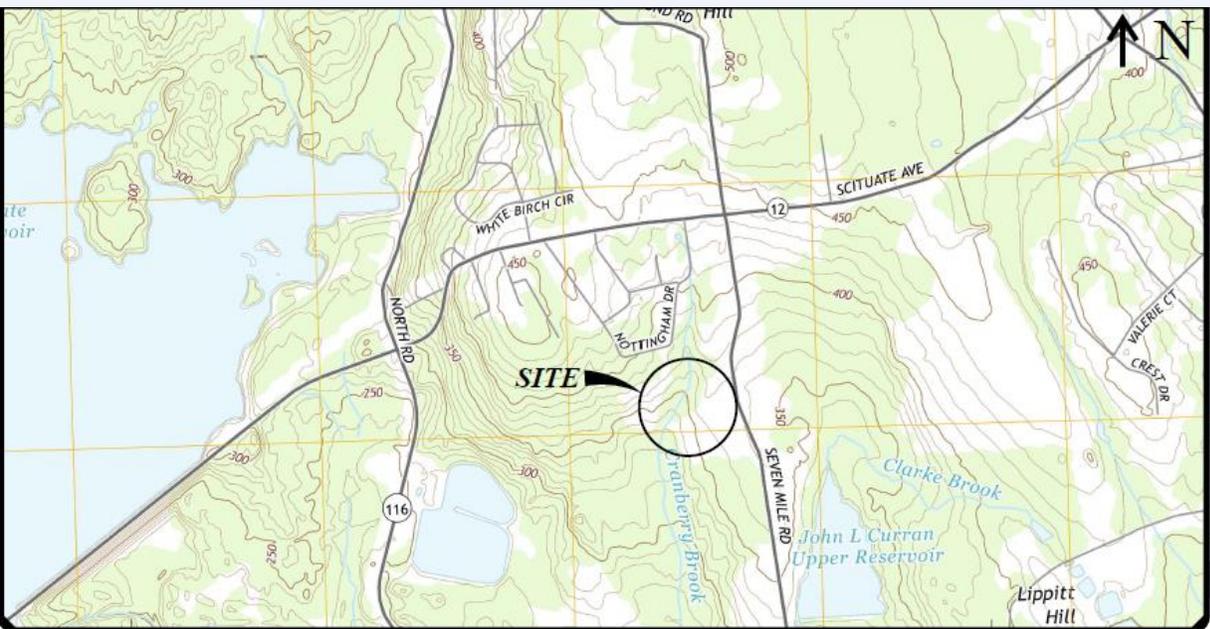
#### 4. **Annual Meeting Presenter: Marc Tremblay, Forestry Consultant. M.**

Tremblay provided some background on the Esek Hopkins tree removal project before leading the group on a walk of the property.

- VII. **Marc Tremblay to lead nature walk immediately following this meeting.**
- VIII. **CC/LT Adjourn Regular and Annual Meeting.** Motion by C. Gianfrancesco, seconded by W. Frederickson, to adjourn the regular and annual meeting of the Scituate Land Trust and Conservation Commission on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at approximately 7:09 PM. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

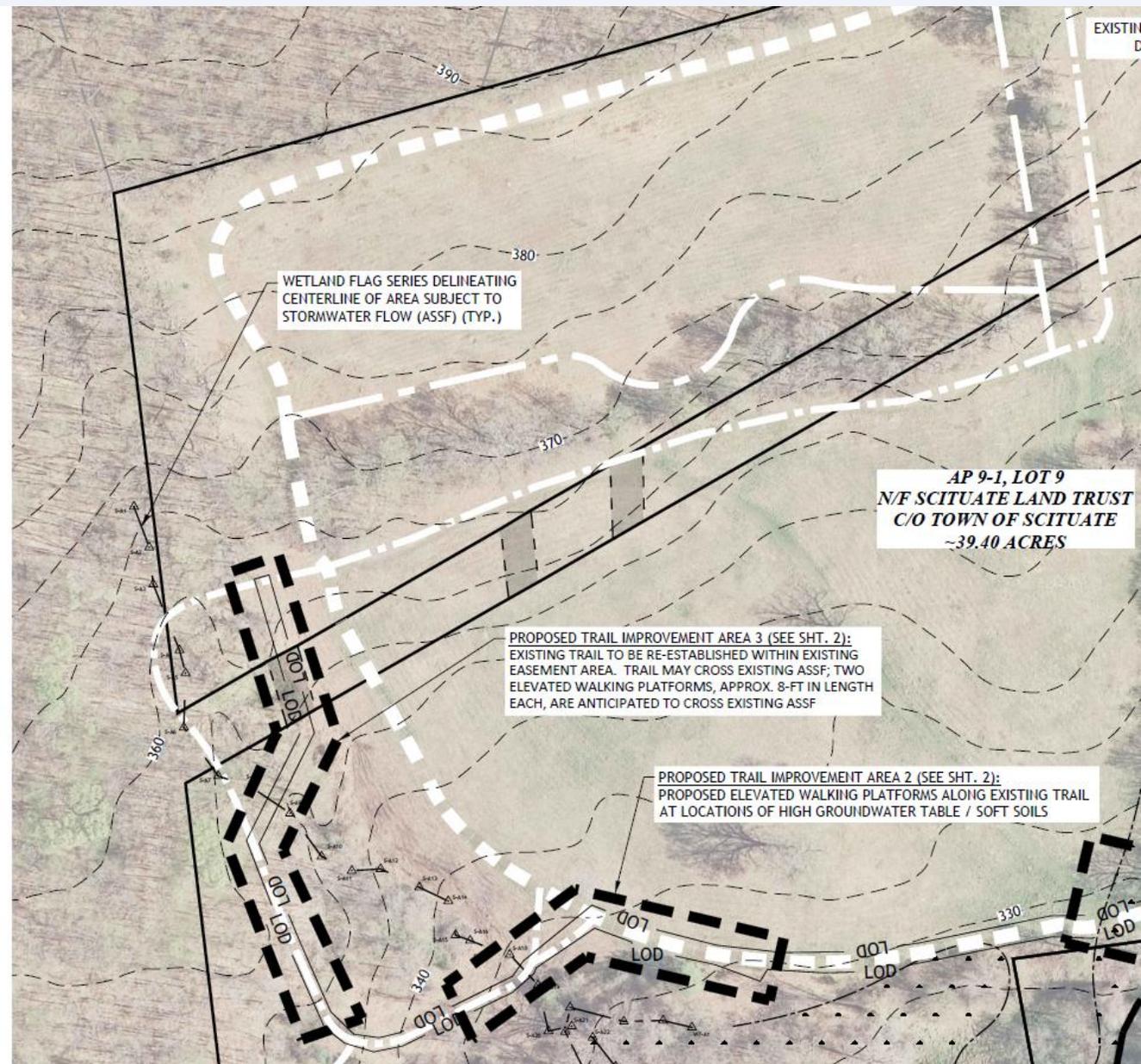
Jennifer West, Scituate LT/CC Clerk





**GENERAL NOTES:**

1. PROPERTY LINE DATA ESTIMATED AND EXISTING CONDITIONS OBTAINED FROM THE TOWN OF SCITUATE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) DATA. ORTHOGRAPHIC PHOTO AND TOPOGRAPHIC DATA ESTIMATED AND OBTAINED FROM STATE OF RHODE ISLAND GIS.
2. THE SITE LIES IN ZONE X (AREAS DETERMINED TO BE OUTSIDE THE 0.2% ANNUAL CHANCE FLOODPLAIN) AS SHOWN ON THE FIRM MAP FOR SCITUATE, RHODE ISLAND, MAP NUMBER 44007C0295G EFFECTIVE DATE MARCH 2, 2009. THE SOUTHWESTERN PORTION OF LOT 272, LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE PROJECT AREA IS WITHIN FLOOD ZONE A.
3. THE TOWN OF SCITUATE LAND TRUST ACTIVELY MAINTAINS AND MANAGES HAYFIELDS ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY. THERE ARE EASEMENTS THAT EXIST ON OR ADJACENT TO THE SITE AS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN. MULTIPLE HISTORIC CEMETERIES LIE SOUTH OF THE PROJECT SITE WITH THE CLOSEST APPROXIMATELY 1,500 FEET FROM THE PROPERTY LINE.
4. THE SITE LIES WITHIN THE PAWTUXET RIVER WATERSHED.
5. RIVERS AND WETLANDS WERE ESTIMATED AND OBTAINED FROM TOWN OF SCITUATE GIS DATA, STATE OF RHODE ISLAND GIS (RIGIS) DATA, RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (RIDEM), AND VISUAL FIELD INSPECTIONS. LSC ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING DELINEATED FRESHWATER WETLANDS WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT AREAS IN APRIL AND MAY OF 2021. WETLAND FLAGS ARE SHOWN ON THE SITE PLAN (SHEET 2 OF 2).
6. EXISTING SOILS ON THE SITE HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS LIPPITT GRAVELLY SANDY LOAM, VERY ROCKY, 3-15 PERCENT SLOPES (LgC). PAXTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 0-3 PERCENT SLOPES (PaA). PAXTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 0-8 PERCENT SLOPES, VERY



WETLAND FLAG SERIES DELINEATING CENTERLINE OF AREA SUBJECT TO STORMWATER FLOW (ASSF) (TYP.)

AP 9-1, LOT 9  
N/F SCITUATE LAND TRUST  
C/O TOWN OF SCITUATE  
~39.40 ACRES

PROPOSED TRAIL IMPROVEMENT AREA 3 (SEE SHT. 2);  
EXISTING TRAIL TO BE RE-ESTABLISHED WITHIN EXISTING EASEMENT AREA. TRAIL MAY CROSS EXISTING ASSF; TWO ELEVATED WALKING PLATFORMS, APPROX. 8-FT IN LENGTH EACH, ARE ANTICIPATED TO CROSS EXISTING ASSF

PROPOSED TRAIL IMPROVEMENT AREA 2 (SEE SHT. 2);  
PROPOSED ELEVATED WALKING PLATFORMS ALONG EXISTING TRAIL AT LOCATIONS OF HIGH GROUNDWATER TABLE / SOFT SOILS

## VII. Annual Meeting Review & Discuss Plans for Next Year

- Date
- Location
- Speaker
- Format

# VIII. Comprehensive Plan: Discussion and Updates

Table 7-X. Open Space Inventory

Property	Location	Type of Conservation Land	Acreage	Ownership	Uses
Esek Hopkins Park	Danielson Pike/Battey Meetinghouse Rd	Fee Title	94.3 95.1	State	Public access permitted
Hopkins Grove			24.7	State	
Popponsett Grove			1.0	State	
Bandstand Lot			2.0	Town	
Darby Road Conservation Area	Darby Road	Fee Interest	41.5	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Blueberry Lane Lot	Blueberry Lane		0.5	Town	
Westconnaug Reservoir	Field Hill Road/George Washington Highway	Fee Interest	8.87	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Westconnaug Meadows	George Washington Highway	Fee Interest	28.8	Scituate Land Trust	Limited public access
Howland Lot			2.8	Town	
Lawton Farm	Seven Mile Road	Fee Interest	16.6	Scituate Land Trust	Public access permitted
Lawton Farm	Seven Mile Road	Fee Interest	39.5	Scituate Land Trust	Limited public access
Alice B. Harris Memorial Wildlife Refuge/Harris Preserve	Harmony Road	Conservation Easement	50.4	Audubon Society of RI	Limited public access
Pine Swamp/Cranberry Brook	Cranberry Drive	Easement	31.2	City of Providence/Audubon Society of RI	Limited public access
Trott Parcel	N Doctors Lane	Easement	12.6	Hope Associates	Public access permitted
Hope Associates/Pawtuxet River	N Doctors Lane	Conservation Intent	38.7	Hope Associates	Public access permitted
Hope Associates/Pawtuxet River	S Doctors Lane/Beverly Road	Easement Interest	15.8?	Hope Associates	Public access permitted
Huntinghouse Brook	Rocky Hill Road/Tourtelott Hill Road	Fee Interest	31.7	Audubon Society of RI	Limited public access
Rocky Hill Road	Rocky Hill Road	Fee Interest	1.5	Town of Scituate	Public access
Rockland Road/Huntinghouse Brook	Rockland Road	Fee Interest	7.9	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Ridge Road	Ridge Road/Spruce Brook	Fee Interest	15.4	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Spruce Brook	French Lane/Spruce Brook	Fee Interest	17.5	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted

Plainfield Pike	Plainfield Pike	Fee Interest	16.9 16.6	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Swamp Brook	Chopmist Hill Road	Fee Interest	33.3	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Cork Brook	Gentry Lane	Fee Interest	16.8	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Rush Brook	Hartford Pike	Fee Interest	27.2	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Scituate Bypass/Rush Brook	Hartford Pike	Fee Interest	2.5	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Field Hill		Fee Interest	28.8	Scituate Land Trust	Public access limited
Otter Point	Robinwood Drive	Fee Interest	10.9	Audubon Society of RI	Limited public access
Hope Park	Clinton Avenue	Fee Interest	9.5	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Jorgenson	[Green Forest] Green Ln/Colvin St	Conservation Intent	26.9 29.9 includes Studley	Hope Associates	Limited public access permitted
Brown University Parcels			6.3	Hope Associates	
Barrett Parcel	S Doctors Lane	Fee Interest	17.5 17.2	Hope Associates	Public access
Perry Parcel	N Doctors Lane	Fee Interest/Easement	10.0 10.4	Hope Associates	Public access
Study Bros, Inc.	Green Ln/Colvin St	Conservation Intent	2.62	Hope Associates	
Barn and Land			.38	Hope Associates	
Hope Gazebo	Main Street	Conservation Intent	.79	Hope Associates	Public access permitted
Adjacent to Beach area (Parcel A)			4.2	Hope Associates	
Old Clayville Dump	Geo. Washington Hwy	Fee Interest	37.3	Town of Scituate	Limited public access
Scituate Animal Shelter	Geo. Washington Hwy	Fee Interest	33.2	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Doctors Field	N Doctors Lane	Fee Interest	3.2	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted
Tasca Field	Hartford Ave	Fee Interest/Easement	12.9	Town of Scituate	Public access permitted

Yellow highlighting – I think this is Westconnaug Meadows but is listed on RIDEM website as Field Hill. Please check.

Pink highlighting – considering moving to a recreation inventory

Red – Rob's suggested changes.

Can you please help with the following:

- Double check I am not duplicating a property that may be called different names but I listed twice because of this. (see yellow highlighting for Westconnaug Meadows/Field Hill)
- Help fill in the location column based on your knowledge of the closest roadway
- Filling out the "Uses" category where it is currently blank.
- Please double check locations of those highlighted in green as they are attempts to locate the nearest road looking at maps.

Green highlighting – information came from RIDEM Environmental Resource Map

<https://ridemgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=87e104c8adb449eb9f05e5f18020de5>

Blue highlighting – information came from Hope Associates documents sent to me by Mary

Grey highlighting – information came from existing comprehensive pla

# IX. Conservation Commission Business: Discussion and/or Action

## A. Property Monitoring

1. Lawton Farm – Hayfield management: lime, fertilize, spray?
2. Esek Hopkins Park – treat invasive plants? Wildlife camera.
3. Trail clearing after the storms – Lawton Farm, Westconnaug Meadows
4. Trail counter?

## B. Board position reappointments and/or search

## C. Troop 1 North Scituate request for Haunted Trail at Esek Hopkins Park, Oct. 30

**PennState Extension**

HOME | MILE-A-MINUTE

### Mile-a-minute

Mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*) is an invasive vine and noxious weed in PA. This article displays images to assist with identification and provides recommendations for control, including a management calendar and treatment and timing table.

ARTICLES | UPDATED: JULY 16, 2020



**Background**

Mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*) is a trailing vine with barbed stems and triangular leaves. In contrast to other invasive vines, mile-a-minute is an herbaceous annual, meaning it dies each fall and new plants grow from germinating seeds in the spring. Originally from India and East Asia, this species was first reported in York County,

Photo credit: Dave Jackson

# X. Land Trust Business: Discussion and/or Action

B. Land Trust Days: kickoff recap, other walks?

C. Board position reappointments and/or search

## Land Trust News

### **Kicking Off Land Trust Days at Lawton Farm in Scituate!**

Thank you to everyone who joined us to kick off Land Trust Days at Lawton Farm last Friday -- and thank you to Scituate Land Trust for hosting the walk! It was such a great way to begin our annual, two-month celebration of the special places that Rhode Island's Land Trusts are protecting.

**Land Trust Days runs until October 17 - JOIN US for one of the many upcoming walks hosted by land trusts all over the state!**

Check out the full calendar of events [HERE](#).



*Does your land trust want to host a walk or activity for Land Trust Days? Add YOUR event to the calendar! [CLICK HERE](#) for info on how to get started, and find the Activity Submission Form [HERE](#). Questions? Reach out to Candace: [cpowning@rilandtrusts.org](mailto:cpowning@rilandtrusts.org) or (401) 426-0167.*

# XI. CC/LT Member announcements

## A. Rally 2021 B. 30x30 Initiative

### 2. National Land Conservation Rally 2021 Registration Now Open

**Date: October 5-7, 2021**

[Registration is now open](#) for the 2021 virtual Rally: The National Land Conservation Conference! Rally is the perfect opportunity to connect with and support your peers at land trusts across the country. Rally 2021 will offer:

- **Group pricing:** Group pricing makes it easy for your entire board and staff to attend. The more board and staff within an organization that register, the more you save.
- **63 workshops** taught by national land conservation leaders. After Rally, you will have access to recordings of every workshop.

### 19. 30x30 Initiative: Protect 30% of the Country's Land by 2030

Leading scientists around the world have determined we can: sustain the earth's natural system which provide us with clean air and water; [slow](#) climate change; and protect nearly 75% of plant and animal species by conserving at least 30% of our land base by 2030. President Biden's [executive order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#) embraces that goal. According to RIDEM, nearly 18 % of Rhode Island is currently protected (91,000 acres). Private land conservation by land owners and Land trusts play an important role in reaching this goal in Rhode Island. (Note: Rhode Island is the 2nd most densely developed state. New Jersey, which is the most densely developed state has already conserved more than 30% of their state with their farmland conservation program a key to their accomplishments.) Read the Land Trust Alliance's recent comments in support of the President's goal [HERE](#).

XII. CC/LT -- Possible motion(s) to Convene into Executive/Closed Session

XIII. CC/LT -- Reconvene Regular Meeting

A. Announcement and/or vote(s) in closed session

## XIV. CC/LT Adjournment