

**SMITHFIELD LAND TRUST MEETING AGENDA**  
**SMITHFIELD TOWN HALL**  
**64 Farnum Pike, Esmond, RI 02917**  
**THURSDAY September 5, 2019 7:00 P.M.**

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The public is welcome to any meeting of the **Smithfield Land Trust**. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation is needed, please contact the Smithfield Town Manager's Office at 401-233-1010 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting

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**AGENDA**

- I. Meeting Called to Order 7:00 PM
- II. Emergency Evacuation and Health Notification
- III. **Executive Closed Session:** Motion to go into Executive Closed Session pursuant to the following sections(s) of the Rhode Island General Laws: 42-46-5 (a)(5)-Real Estate: For any and all discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes.
- IV. Minutes:
  - a. Move that the minutes of the August 1, 2019, meeting be approved.
- V. Treasurer's report—Budget Report if received. New Year fiscal 2020. No report.
  - a. Discuss update on signs. We have the inventory of signs with pictures. The signs are in the Conservation Center Office. Nothing new
  - b. Equipment update.
- VI. Update Projects in Process
  - a. Discuss update of Management Plans and annual site visits will be due during 2019 for the following properties:
    - i. **Blackbird Farm** (Limerock Road- 50 acres conservation easement).**2019 Annual site visit complete.** Barbara Rich went out to the farm with Kevin Bouttelette on June 7.
    - ii. **Cavanagh Property** (Log Road- 12 acres conservation easement). Nothing New
    - iii. **Clark Road** (105 Clark Rd – 22 acres own from development).Nothing New
    - iv. **D'Angelo Family Farm** (Old County Road - 15 acres conservation easement).. Nothing New

- v. **Greenville Nature Reserve** (Smith Avenue - 28 acres own from development). **2019 Annual site visit complete.**
- vi. **Hanton City** (Decotis Farm Road - 96 acres own) Nothing new
- vii. **Hyde Tree Farm** (Mann School Rd - 65 acres Conservation Easement/DEM) Nothing new
- viii. **Hoar Farm** (Austin Avenue 16 acres Conservation Easement) nothing new Eleanor Hoar has died. Current property owner might be her niece. Nothing new
- ix. **Caroline E Judson Trust Property** (Williams Rd -56 acres own/DEM). Trail incomplete. The Judson House was put up for tax sale, it encompasses the house and 5 acres. Nothing new
- x. **Latham Brook Preserve** (Burlingame Road (Latham Farm Road Entry) – 123 acres own) Paul Harrison has taken the lead. Update. Goal to mark trail and get signs, paint and volunteers. Set a date to help mark trails and map?

A volunteer was at the site and noticed construction debris by the pumping station. I called the pumping people which got the public works, and town engineer involved to discover it was the construction company's trash. They should have removed by now.

We need to find out about the 9 acres that should be deeded to us at the end of the building site for a parking area off of Latham Farm Rd. Right now it seems to be piles of dirt.

- xi. **Matteo Farmland** (Swan Rd – 50 acres own) Still need a **member to volunteer** to do the management plan. Tom Robitaille has spoken to Jaswells to get a date to walk property and do 2019 Site visit. update
- xii. **Mowry Homestead:** Consider, Discuss and act upon Recommendation to the Town Council to approve the Curatorship agreement as approved and worked on with Council, Land Trust, Preserve RI and Revive the Roots.
- xiii. Discuss how to proceed with future of Mowry House.. Brain storm ideas and possibilities for the Mowry House.

**Mowry Farmland:** Revive the Roots will give us an update on progress for the property.

We have been asked by **Tinkergarten parks & Greenspaces** to host early childhood classes by them outside. It is a program where families gather with local leaders who deliver a curriculum in local greenspaces. It provides play-based learning and connection to nature for families in our community.

I thought that Mowry Gardens and the Mowry Farm property would be a great location. They have the woods, the field and the farm area. Revive the Roots must approve.

- xiv. **Olivia's Forest** (Ridge Rd, 31 acres (donation by Mr. Gallo and from development). Update Joe Siegel visited. **2019 Site visit complete.**
  - xv. **Pavao Plat** (Evans Road 6.5 acres own (from development)).
  - xvi. **Jim Russell Property** (Burlingame Road – 43 acres own). **Site visit complete for 2019.** The Small parking area on Burlingame needs to be leveled and cleared up.
  - xvii. **Sasso Property** (Mann School Road 21 acres conservation easement). Marc Mahoney and Jeremiah Adler discussed a path from Mann School Rd into the Connors farm area. Discuss with property owner Larry Sasso .
  - xviii. **Sleboda Farm** (Whipple Rd -56 acres-conservation easement) nothing new
  - xix. **Captain Elisha Steere Farm**-(Booker) (W. Greenville Road. 8.54 acres conservation easement). **Annual site visit complete 2019**
  - xx. **Steere Orchard** (Austin Avenue 20 acres conservation easement). Jim Steere continues to have issues with people on his property coming from Conservation area trails into orchard and taking apples etc. Paul Harrison spoke with Jim Steere. Jim was thinking about deer fencing (very expensive). Paul had an idea of opening up “Pig Road” and putting in some fencing along there to help Steere Orchards. Ken Weber Cascade Brook is the property that abuts the Steere Orchards. So Conservation and the town (for the Road) would have to be part of the work. Paul Harrison is researching. Update.
  - xxi. **Wolf Hill Forest Preserve** (Pleasant View Avenue 295 acres own)- Get Large copy of updated Trail Map. Public works is working on new parking area on Wolf Hill Rd along with Conservation. Discuss if we should get a new sign for that area with rules and perhaps a map? I think we need to repaint markings in this area as well. Set a date to remark the white trail and Mercer outlook area. Tentatively schedule October for trail work.
  - xxii. **Facebook page for Land Trust**-update posted some updates pictures
- b. Discuss updates on scout projects and other projects on Land Trust properties. **Discuss a program for Schools for volunteer and community projects.**  
 Heard from a scout who wanted to do a map for the kiosk for Wolf Hill, but we already have one. I suggested he paint the trail markings and clean the trails up by Mercer Outlook. He could put in new markings by where the parking will be. He may be our guest at this meeting.

- c. Discuss updates on Technical Review (Don/Barbara)-
- d. Discuss upcoming Calendar—suggestions for events for Land Trust?

August 24, 2019 Land Trust Days event Vernal Pools on Wolf Hill. Jim Gass was our guide. It was very successful about 20 people. Perfect weather. Jim has enthusiastically agreed to do more walks. I think we should schedule an early spring walk again to visit the Vernal Pools when they are filled with salamanders, wood frogs and starting their life cycles.

- e. Discuss updates on **Conservation Commission** News (Don). Wolf Hill Rd, parking plans and expenses update.
- f. Spoke to Safety officer for update on parking. We have taken Carlton's way off the map. He said he hadn't had any calls recently and I told him town will help with the new parking area.

VII. Public Comment (5 minutes)

VIII. Adjournment

**Next Meeting October 3, 2019.**