

MEETING MINUTES
Lower Connecticut River Land Trust
4/18/18, 1PM
Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments Office, 145 Dennison Rd., Essex, CT

Board Members In Attendance: Bonnie Reemsnyder, Cathy Iino, Carl Fortuna, Anthony Salvatore, Melvin Woody, Clair Matthews (alternate)

Board Members Not In Attendance: Noel Bishop, Michael Maniscalco

Other: Sam Gold, Margot Burns, Paula Fernald

The meeting was called to order at 1:04pm.

Approvals of Minutes:

Discussion concerned the change of board and purpose of meeting.

Motion: To accept the Special Meeting Minutes of 12/7/17.

Motion made by: Melvin Woody

Seconded by: Carl Fortuna

Voted: Motion passed with 1 for, and 4 abstentions.

Motion: To accept the Meeting Minutes of 2/28/18.

Motion made by: Carl Fortuna

Seconded by: Cathy Iino

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

Review Nonprofit Checklist:

RiverCOG staff reported on their meeting to determine the next steps to be taken in the Agency's program to ensure the Lower Connecticut River Land Trust (LCRLT) continues its transition from serving the Connecticut River Gateway Conservation Zone to serving the larger geography of the RiverCOG region. As it is now separated from the administrative abilities of its parent the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, new business and funding systems will have to be developed to maximize its regional support of natural, scenic, and historic resource preservation through the region's land trusts (the land trust exchange), RiverCOG Agricultural Council, municipal planning commissions, and other non-profit and government organizations.

Before seeking funding in the form of grants or donations, business structures will need to be created to support these activities as previous land protection projects have been funded through an established endowment. To begin this process the Foundation Center's Grantspace online training resources were consulted and the process was begun by working with their *Checklist for New Nonprofits*.

Discussion concerned the need for the LCRLT to seek capacity building funding to enable the land trust to establish business systems and seek Accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance. It was determined that the first steps the region could help with would be the creation of a mission statement and an online presence through the creation of a simple website with important historical and financial information, as well as agendas and meeting minutes. We will also be setting up a meeting with Amy

Paterson, Executive Director of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) and Connie Manes, Accreditation Consultant and CLCC Steering Committee Member. There is also a need to begin work on an annual work plan and a fund raising plan.

The Bylaws state that the purposes of the LCRLT are:

Section 1.02. **Purpose.** The purposes as stated in the Certificate of Incorporation include, but are not limited to, the following.

A. Promote for the benefit of the general public and purposes and policies of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission as well as the preservation of natural resources, including land, air and water resources, the plant and animal life thereon, and unique scenic, natural and historic sites;

B. Engage in and promote the scientific study of, and education regarding, natural resources; and

C. To use all properties held or controlled by the corporation and the net earnings thereof for the benefit of the general public and for the aforesaid purposes.

Formation of Land Trust Advisory Committee:

RvierCOG staff reported on an outcome of the Lower Ct River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange meeting of 4/16/18:

Discussion at the LTE meeting concerned the role that the LTE group will have in the new non-profit. There was a suggestion that the LCRLT Board (which is the RiverCOG executive committee plus Melvin Woody), officially create an advisory committee of regional land trusts under the umbrella of the non-profit. This committee would take the place of the LTE which has been functioning as an informal group and project of RiverCOG. The advisory committee would be charged with the work associated with obtaining grants and raising funds for regional land trust activities, including land stewardship, land acquisition, and shared services. The advisory committee would make recommendations to the LCRLT Board on land trust policies and projects for adoption and approval.

A recently completed survey of the region's land trusts supported the formalization of the LTE. The idea would be to formalize this committee with a specific membership, officers, agendas and minutes, and decision making and conflict resolution processes. The envisioned process would be for the land trusts in our region to formally choose to participate in the advisory committee and appoint a representative. All land trusts operating in the Lower Connecticut River Valley Region would be eligible to join the committee. The Salem Land Trust has been very active in the LTE and I would like consideration of allowing Salem to continue participation. Melvin Woody will be both a member of this advisory committee and of the Board.

It was asked of the board to approve the creation of the advisory committee. The board was in favor of the concept of the creation of the committee but wanted to find out more information from RiverCOG staff at the next meeting before entertaining a vote.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 1:32.

Motion made by: Anthony Salvatore

Seconded by: Cathy Iino

Voted: Motion passed unanimously.