



**Minutes**  
**Lower Connecticut River Land Trust Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 25, 2018**  
RiverCOG, 145 Dennison Road, Essex, CT 06426

**Members Present:**

Melvin Woody (Gateway)  
Lauren Gister (Chester)  
Christine Goupil (Clinton)  
Anthony Salvatore (Cromwell)  
Angus McDonald (Deep River)  
Michael Maniscalco (East Hampton)  
Lizz Milardo (Haddam)  
Cathy Iino (Killingworth)  
Ed Bailey (Middlefield)  
Bonnie Reemsnyder (Old Lyme)  
Carl Fortuna (Old Saybrook)  
Noel Bishop (Westbrook)

**Call to Order**

Bonnie Reemsnyder called the meeting order at 10:25 a.m. This meeting will function as the annual meeting of the membership as well as a meeting of the board.

**Update on LCRLT Activities**

The membership of the LCRLT is made up of the seventeen municipalities in the region and the Gateway Commission. Gateway handed off the LCRLT to the RiverCOG in January. Since then, there have been three board meetings and staff have been learning about incorporating and running a non-profit. The Land Trust Exchange, an entity of land trusts in our region, will be appointed as an advisory committee.

Tom Curren, an experienced land trust professional, is being hired as a development coordinator.

A memorandum of understanding between RiverCOG and the LCRLT has been drafted. This will help govern how the two entities will interact.

Inheritance, the Land Trust's magazine, will be developed into a web presence to help attract funders.

Currently, the RiverCOG Executive Committee and the Gateway representative form the board of directors. This may be changing to another format within the next year through a bylaws amendment.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the July 18, 2018 Meeting**

*Mr. Fortuna moved to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2018 meeting; second by Mr. Salvatore. All voted in favor.*

### **Election of Officers and Board of Directors**

It had been previously decided that the RiverCOG Executive Committee would serve as the officers and the board of directors. This includes Bonnie Reemsnyder, Michael Maniscalco, Carl Fortuna, Noel Bishop, Cathy Iino, Anthony Salvatore, Melvin Woody and alternate Claire Matthews. This was done to keep this moving forward for the time being.

*Mr. Fortuna moved to approve the officers and board members; second by Mr. McDonald. Voted unanimously in favor.*

*Discussion: Any changes will be addressed at future meetings.*

Options for the future makeup of the board and officers were discussed. The current make up is to shepherd the LCRLT into being. In the future the hope is that this will be moved more to the land trusts and those more involved in land conservation.

### **Memorandum of Understanding between the RiverCOG and LCRLT**

Comments and edits on the MOU were solicited by Mr. Gold prior to August 10, 2018.

### **Development Project with Tom Curren**

The board is moving ahead with Tom Curren's proposal to function as the LCRLT's Development Coordinator, with the proviso that \$5,000 start-up be raised from participating land trusts or other entities. There have been funding commitments from four land trusts. There is an additional need for liability and officer's insurance.

### **Overview of FY19 Work**

Ms. Burns stated that in FY 19 the board would like to complete the MOU with RiverCOG, further advance the business structure capacity, create a mission statement, create a website, edit the bylaws to include the Land Trust Exchange as an advisory subcommittee, decide on the future board composition and transition and design the development program.

### **Adjournment**

*Mr. Fortuna moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m., second by Ms. Iino. All voted in favor.*