



**Lower Connecticut River Land Trust  
07/16/19 MEETING MINUTES  
LCRVCOG Office, 145 Dennison Rd., Essex**

**Board Members In Attendance:** Anthony Salvatore, Cathy Iino, Lauren Gister, Claire Matthews (until 9:45), Melvin Woody (alternate), Ed Bailey, Bonnie Reemsnyder

**Board Members Not In Attendance:** Noel Bishop

**Other:** Sam Gold, Margot Burns, Marilyn Gleeson, David Brown, Kristina White, Eliza LoPresti

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 am by Anthony Salvatore.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the May 14, 2019 meeting.

**Motion made by:** Cathy Iino

**Seconded by:** Lauren Gister

**Voted:** Motion approved unanimously

**Discussion with Land Trust Liaisons on Board Transition**

The RiverCOG took on the Land Trust as a caretaker board, meaning that the intention is to transition the composition of the board into another entity (rather than having the COG board be the same as the LCRLT board). There was discussion on formalizing the Land Trust Exchange (LTE) to include officers and a nominating committee, etc. Ms. White feels that if that group were more formalized there may be more buy-in from some of the land trusts and for outside funding. Ms. Burns noted that there has been good participation and that there is a conservation plan with a funding matrix that already exists within the LTE entity, which has been functioning as more of an ad hoc committee. It was also noted that in the LCRLT by-laws the LTE is listed as an official standing committee.

The need for a road map, vision and timeline of board hand-off was discussed. Mr. Gold feels that the towns should still be involved, though not necessarily the First Selectmen or Town Managers. Mr. Brown feels that the LTE should remain an ad hoc group with advisory capability and not become more formalized if the LCRLT board is formalized. He advocates that the LCRLT be run entirely by land trusts. Mr. Gold noted that without the support of the towns there is no mechanism for the LCRLT to receive staff support as the LCRLT is not yet in a position to pay for RiverCOG staff time as Gateway does.

There was the question of how to transition the current caretaker board into a board governed by land trusts. There were suggestions that the LTE could nominate board members, and that the town CEOs could also think of good nominees that would be interested in participating.

Next steps were summarized as addressing the current LCRLT by-laws and moving toward assembling a board based on that. There will be a membership meeting after the next COG meeting to address board vacancies. Mr. Salvatore suggested reaching out to the municipalities to see who is interested in becoming an active liaison. The transition can be accomplished through appointees/liaisons. It was also suggested that the LTE could recommend a slate of candidates. Ms. Burns will provide a list of land trusts in our area.

#### **Terra Corps**

Ms. Burns has been researching this program which could provide a full time staff person for the land trust. There is a \$10,000/year (or less) contribution, plus \$1,500 in travel expenses. There are a lot of regulations that need to be met to qualify to receive a full time Terra Corps worker. Mr. Brown noted that the Middlesex Land Trust is also looking into this program. Recruits from this program can be shared. Administrative work and mentoring are required. The consensus was for Ms. Burns to move forward researching this further.

#### **Conflict of Interest/Disclosure Forms**

Ms. Burns noted that those members that have not signed these two items should do so.

#### **Next Land Trust Board Meeting**

This will be held directly after the RiverCOG meeting on July 24.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.