

East Greenwich Municipal Land Trust

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2023

Call to order & roll call

Members:

- Kevin Dawson
- Amity Dubell
- Kevin Guerette
- Derek Steinbrenner
- Carla Swanson

Guests:

- Chris Riley, EG resident, future EGMLT member
- RI Energy representatives:
 - George Watson, Attorney, outside signing counsel NE
 - Michael Masseur, RDS Group, stakeholder relation support

EG Town Staff: not present

1. Revolution Wind's G185-L190 energy upgrade project (<https://g185-l190upgrades.com/>)

- a. Report from those who attended “community info sessions”
 - i. Ms. Dubell and Mr. Steinbrenner attended forum
- b. Two RI Energy representatives present to describe project & answer EGMLT member questions.
 - i. Summary: Rebuild of transmission lines from Davisville to Drumrock, need driven by new load due to offshore wind project, Revolution wind farms. Structures will be similar, but taller, and the one wire will now be two bundled wires.
 - ii. Hunt property has 4 towers. When replaced, 2 will have a foundation, 2 direct-embed
 - iii. Project has an “Environmental monitor” - person charged with monitoring the project
 - iv. Discuss current state: has no sign or trailhead. Discuss putting a permanent trail head in, swapping out “no trespassing” sign, add markings, divert people around the worksite—Mr. Masseur assured the board that these measures could be included in the project’s investment in the Hunt River site

- v. Discuss whether the easements on the private road allowing RIMLT access has conveyed. **RIE attorney will share any info he has about the easement.**
 - vi. RIE: RI Energy is dedicated to being “good neighbor” **if there is a problem post-project, they will work with us to correct it.**
- c. Discuss EGMLT member site visit to Hunt River Preserve: Mr. Steinbrenner, Ms. Dubell, and Mr. Guerette will meet with the Environmental Engineer to go on a site visit. Mr. Steinbrenner will get them some meeting time options.
- d. Questions & Answers
- i. EGMLT: What happens the material that is dug out?
RIE: It’s spread around onsite. Environmental consultant
 - ii. EGMLT: When is remediation done?
RIE: AFter project is complete, project remediates - restores area back to where it was...does not restore with invasive species, will address rutting, any issues from the timber matting, can bring equipment in . Conservation reseeded (reports area as currently grasses with exposed soil)
2 circuit challenge/coordination required for this project
 - iii. EGMLT: timeline
RIE: civil work = timber matting, foundations, etc starts late spring/summer 2023. Then towers go up, then Wires go up. Presence episodic over two years.
Use - public will be diverted around the work site.
 - iv. EGMLT: Do towers fail?
RIE: NO. Only 1 has failed.
 - v. Public: What is the difference between “new” and “replace”
RIE: 90 day application vs. full is about 9 months....
 - vi. EGMLT: Is there an educational component connecting the work to renewable energy?
RIE: Not through RIEnergy, beyond what’s on their website.
 - vii. RIMLT: Will trees be cleared to get equipment in, if yes, are they replaced?
RIE: Some trees may be removed near high school. RIE doesn’t replace trees that are likely to become “trouble trees” - No widening of the right of way so removals should be minimal
 - viii. EGMLT: Can you do signage?
RIE: Yes, we will talk to Revolution Wind about project and educational signage

2. EGMLT Finances

- a. Financial reporting: impact fees, Boesch Farm cash flow, grants, fundraising/donations
 - i. At a prior meeting Mr. Ranaldi stated that his department would write grants for us.
 - ii. Ms. Dubell found grant from AARP, may not be enough time to get it written and submitted

- b. Funding
 - i. Advice from town staff was initially to propose 10k to town council; later advised not to request funding. Instead, ask individual departments to work EGMLT projects into their regular work.
 - ii. Parks department is now charged with maintaining EGMLT properties. They will start including EGMLT properties and trails in their maintenance routines.
 - iii. Councillor Mark Schwaeger would like us to visit town council, check in if we face challenges getting support from town departments

3. EGMLT Properties

- a. Kiosks
 - i. Need to decide what we want. Ms. Swanson will make folder. If you see kiosks you like add the photo
 - ii. Identify what we want on the kiosk
 - iii. Ms. Dubell knows someone that designs kiosks, has call in to get their input
- b. Trails
 - i. Former trail company can be hired as consultants.
- c. Site assessment updates
 - i. Visit process and documentation
 - 1. Suggest adding "recommended maintenance schedule" to site visit form
 - 2. Suggest adding Parks Dept. "service agreement" section to document plans made with Parks dept. "
 - ii. Bleachery Woods
 - 1. Ms. Dubell completed her site assessment
 - 2. Given its central location close to downtown, the board discussed and agreed to target this property as a first effort at working with town departments
 - iii. Briggs-Boesch farm
 - 1. Mr. Steinbrenner completed a site visit but has not had a chance to document his assessment
 - 2. The primary woods trail is in pretty good shape, but the pasture trails need extensive tree-fall removal, trail clearing, and trail marking in many sections
 - iv. Laurel/Fry/Frenchtown
 - 1. Mr. Dawson has not yet had time to conduct his site visit
 - v. Hunt River Preserve
 - 1. Mr. Steinbrenner completed his site visit and documented his assessment
 - 2. Trail head is nonexistent and parking area signage is down; primary trail is clear but lacks complete signage; loop trail is completely overgrown

- vi. Folger's Woods
 - 1. Mr. Guerette was unable to locate the property – it has no designated parking, and the sign was not visible during his drive around looking for it
- vii. Tanner-Clark Preserve
 - 1. Mr. Steinbrenner met with STEAM museum about using their field for parking. Want to help with public access to Clark property via Tillinghast. Property has an EASEMENT for the EGMLT to put a parking area in.
- d. Acquisitions
 - i. Lister Farm (Pine property) - board members have not been informed by town of whether the closing took place in February as planned

4. EGMLT Structure

- a. Discuss existing Town Code + proposed changes
- b. Question: Is the code on the website current?
- c. Discuss: 2019 legal analysis that the town code section is not legal. It also does not reflect reality.
- d. Propose: We can start over and propose edits to the code
- e. Mr. Steinbrenner talked to Mr. Nota, **he will come to our 4/26 meeting.** Mr. Steinbrenner and Ms. Dubell might meet with him in advance.

5. Rhode Island Land Trust Council

- a. EGMLT annual membership
- b. 2023 RI Land & Water Conservation Mini-Summit (Saturday, April 8, 9:00-1:00). Town will pay/reimburse @ URI Center for Biotechnology & Life Sciences, Kingston, RI (\$40 before March 24th, or \$55 after)

6. Other Land Trust matters – topics to discuss at a future date - no discussion

7. To-Dos related to agenda items

- a. Mr. Steinbrenner is poc for ri energy site visit
- b. Mr. Steinbrenner will coordinate meeting with Mr. Nota about relationships, budgeting, gifts, etc...
- c. Ms. Dubell will coordinate meeting with Andy Wade to Bleachery
- d. Mr. Steinbrenner will coordinate site visit with Andy Wade to Clark
- e. Mr. Dawson & Mr. Guerette will complete their site assessments
- f. Ms. Swanson will do notes, minutes, Folder for Kiosk info
- g. All members - review charter on google site, make
- h. Ms. Marseglia - doing research on legal status of properties

Motion to adjourn, all in favor, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Ms. Swanson Swanson, EGMLT Secretary
March 22, 2023