

**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed
Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council
Workshop Agenda**



September 28, 2022, 5 pm to 7 pm

Meet at the Pavilion at Hewitt Farm

Address: Hewitt Farm, Hewitt Road, North Stonington, CT

Trail Map:

https://www.northstoningtonct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf4806/f/uploads/2022_map_revision.pdf

Call to Order *please keep comments brief and on topic so many people can participate in the discussion*

Presentation & Discussion: Projects Committee Recommends Approval of Grant Process and Application (30 mins)

The National Park Service has required submission of our written procedures for the Grants Program.

Consider allocating \$17,000 to the grants program from FY 22-23 funding. The total this grant round will be 24,784 (or 27,284 if proposal below is not funded) and a round number would be advertised.

Projects Committee – Grant Proposal Recommendation (15 minutes)

Consider approving the Projects Committee recommendation to fund the land acquisition closing costs grant request submitted by the Charlestown Land Trust. Amount requested: \$2,500

Town/Community Updates (6:00 pm)

1. Q&A, and RSVP Due for the National Park Service, Partnership Wild and Scenic River Gathering happening December 5-7, 2022 at the Wekiva River in Florida
2. Other

Good of the Order

Next Meeting or Workshop: The fourth Wednesday of every month, October 26, 2022.

Adjourn

Supplemental Information linked for 9/28/2022:

1. Grant Application and Process
2. Grant Proposal from Charlestown Land Trust
3. Details on Partnership Wild and Scenic River Gathering

1. GRANT APPLICATION AND PROCESS:

- a. Original https://wpwildrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Grants_09.23.2021.pdf
- b. Proposed Process https://wpwildrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Grants_09.23.2021-Grant-Review-Process_9.16.2022-approved-by-Committee.docx
- c. Proposed Application https://wpwildrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Grants_09.23.2021-Application_9.16.2022-approved-by-Committee.docx

2. GRANT PROPOSAL FROM THE CHARLESTOWN LAND TRUST COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Summary: “The property’s forests capture and cleanse rainfall for the important wetland and floodplain complex that surrounds Saw Mill Pond. Its approximately 30 acres of wetlands, together with Saw Mill Pond, and surrounding wetlands and uplands are a state mapped Ecological Land Unit (ELU) that is identified in the RI Wildlife Action Plan. The property is also part of a climate corridor. The Richard property forms almost the entire eastern border of Saw Mill Pond, a 10-acre pond surrounded by marshland that drains to Indian Cedar Stream, which flows through the Indian Cedar Swamp and is tributary to the Pawcatuck River. The land is part of a greater than 250 acre area of unfragmented forest and is nearly contiguous with an unfragmented forest area of greater than 500 acres. The property's forests are a mix of Oak and other hard woods, White Pine and Pitch Pine and an approximately 1.3 acre Atlantic White Cedar swamp. There are young Atlantic White Cedar in several locations around the pond and a small white cedar swamp on the eastern shore with an understory of sphagnum with golden root spread throughout. The Richard property and Saw Mill Pond are contiguous with tribal land and nearly contiguous with the Indian Cedar Swamp and the Carter Preserve and support many of the rare species on these lands by sharing habitat and acting as a buffer between the developed areas on Rt. 112 and these other preserved lands.

Question: We understand RI DEM has awarded the Town for land acquisition. Will you tell us more?

Answer: “The DEM grant ... was written by the Planning Commission/Town, approved and submitted in October 2021 by the Town of Charlestown. The grant is specific to the parcel noted and the grant money can only be used to acquire that property. The grant money is reserved and awaiting our appraisal, negotiations and acquisition protocol.”

Statement from Charlestown Alt Rep B. Maietta: “The Sawmill Pond Grant application pertains to funding an appraisal which is a necessary step towards acquisition by the Town of Charlestown (or other agency). The parcel has already received a grant of \$400,000.00 from the State of Rhode Island for use in purchase. Acquisition of this parcel as open space addresses ALL ecological ORVs for the Middle and Lower Pawcatuck Rivers as described on page 98 of the Stewardship Plan. More importantly, it addresses these ORVs and WATER QUALITY in these sections of the Pawcatuck in perpetuity.”

Full Grant Proposal: https://wpwilddrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/SAW-MILL-POND-GRANT_05.31.2022.pdf

Questions posed by the Committee, with answers from Charlestown Land Trust: https://wpwilddrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Wild-Scenic-Questions_Saw-Mill-Pond-8-22-1.pdf

3. **DETAILS ON PARTNERSHIP WILD AND SCENIC RIVER GATHERING**

- a. Dates confirmed: Dec. 7-9
 - b. At the Wekiva River in Florida
 - c. 2 Day Conference, with field trips
 - d. Expenses covered for three attendees
 - e. RSVP due to NPS just after our Council Workshop. Winter in the Sunshine State gets booked out early!
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