



# East Greenwich Municipal Land Trust

**Saturday, April 01, 2023 at 9:00 AM**

**IN-PERSON MEETING ONLY**

**Site visit to Hund River Preserve, East Greenwich RI 02818**

## East Greenwich Land Trust

Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2023

### Description

Site visit to Hunt River Preserve by Land Trust members for the purpose of deciding on and marking a new public access trail from the park entrance to the RIE cleared power line right-of-way.

### Attendees

Land Trust board members:

- Kevin Dawson
- Amity Dubell
- Kevin Guerette
- Derek Steinbrenner
- Chris Riley

EG Town Staff: not present

Guests: none

### Minutes

Despite the rain, 5 members of the Land Trust met at Hunt River Preserve this morning as planned. After touring the area again, we zeroed in on our recommendation for a new trail to bypass most of the utility road, joining the cleared right-of-way at the top of a ridge. The new permanent trail would then continue directly across the cleared right-of-way, sloping gently down to rejoin the existing trail. (RIE will create a temporary trail across the cleared right-of-way for the duration of the energy upgrade project.)

We used a combination of driveway stakes and flagging tape to mark our proposed trail. The proposed path provides a gradual incline up to the ridge line that traverses the wooded area for most of the distance to the cleared right-of-way.

[The image below shows a crude drawing of the approximate proposed path.]

We agreed that our next step is to invite the town's RIE project oversight team to visit the site so they can review and consider our proposed trail routing. We recommend that they take the

Planning Department's GPS tracking device to ensure that any final trail remains entirely on the municipal parcel and avoids crossing over onto the utility's property. (We determined that we will need to do some boundary marking at some point.)

We recommended that the town do the official marking of the new trail once it's decided on, and confirm trail specs (i.e., 4-foot wide, dirt or mulch bed, etc.). The Land Trust can remove our markings as needed once the official markings are installed.

Another idea surfaced from the Land Trust board during the site visit: establishing a new primary parking area for the trail within the boundary of the municipal parcel itself, along the access roadway just past the culvert. It looked to us as though it could be accomplished by removing two trees and doing some minor grading, with space for perhaps up to 6 vehicles.

In our discussion of the idea, we identified a number of advantages of relocating the primary parking onto the site itself (vs. the current parking easement) as part of this effort:

- Improved relations with, and privacy for, the abutting homeowners
- Better clarity for visitors regarding the entrance to the Preserve (with proper signage)
- RIE could relocate its vehicle barrier further back into the site, just past the new parking area, providing a more welcoming entry to the site
- A new trailhead kiosk could be installed adjacent to the new parking area and new access trail
- RIE might provide the labor and expense to construct the new parking area as part of its impact mitigation accommodations

[The image below includes a rectangle drawn where the board thinks the parking area could be sited.]

[See also: property deeds and easement-related documents for the Preserve and abutting properties.]

The board also discussed the siting of a potential viewing deck constructed over the footings of one of the power line structures being removed. A bench could be positioned there overlooking Hunt River.

[The image below includes a rectangle drawn where the potential viewing deck could be positioned.]

