

Approved Minutes
Little Compton Agricultural Conservancy Trust
Meeting
April 2, 2026

1.) Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, by D. McNaughton. Members present were D. McNaughton, M. Steers, N. Levine, E. Bowen, T. Johnston, and S. Souza.

2.) Recommendations of the Working Strategy Committee: D. McNaughton explained that the goal is to review and develop a mission statement, firm up a list of sub-committees, assign members to sub-committees, and task sub-committees with specifically defining their duties and goals for 2026. Be ready to approve of the May meeting.

T. Johnston, M. Steers and S. Souza met for about six hours and used N. Levine's suggested mission statement that was adopted and proposed. They then developed sub-committees and suggested some duties.

- Mission Statement: **The Mission of the LCACT is to preserve Little Compton's agricultural ecosystem, rural character, and natural attributes. The Trust works to protect and support working-farms by acquiring land development rights, property, and through agriculture support programs. Additionally, we protect open space for habitat, ground water replenishment, and public recreation.**

LCACT has Enabling Legislation which determines the Trust's responsibilities and how it does its work. It doesn't address "the why we are doing this." The mission statement will explain the "why".

All the bullets (supporting points) are equally weighted. Incorporated the legal language that DEM provided from 2011 precedent about what agriculture means to the Trust.

Motion to adopt the mission statement made by E. Bowen. Second by S. Souza. 6-0 approve

Supporting Points

Bullet One: No change; Bullet will read: Communicate the Ag Trust Mission and clearly relate each land transaction to our Mission and to public benefits.

Bullet Two: Remove the word each. Bullet will read: Seek opportunities to include farmer housing with the acquisition of farmland.

Bullet three: Cooperate with other organizations in town to address priorities ancillary to the Trust's primary mission consistent with responsible land conservation, our Mission and enabling legislation.

D. McNaughton discussed the third bullet of the mission statement: Cooperate with other organizations in town to address priorities ancillary to the Trust's primary mission as consistent with responsible land conservation, our mission and enabling legislation. He raised a question regarding the word "ancillary".

N. Levine explained he used the word "ancillary" to indicate that there are times that the Ag Trust while fulfilling its mission, may find opportunities to benefit our town through the use of land or other resources that we have and get double utility out of our work.

E. Bowen suggested changing the bullet to read: Cooperate with other organizations in town to address priorities in line with the Trust's primary mission when consistent with responsible land conservation, our mission, and enabling legislation.

Bullet Four: Add environmental before health and move positive relationships with farmers after support. Bullet reads: Improve stewardship of fee-owned parcels which are leased for farming to support positive relationships with farmers, agricultural use, and environmental health.

Bullet Five: Remove the RIGL references. Bullet to read: Expand productive agricultural use of all suitable LCACT land holdings.

Bullet Six: Replace "actively cultivate" with "use". Bullet to read: Encourage owners of land covered by conservation easements to use their land for agricultural purposes.

Bullet Seven: Add a comma after Improve Trust operations. Bullet will read: Improve Trust operations, including increased transparency, meeting practices, and engagement with the Town Council.

Bullet Eight: No changes. Bullet will read: Regularly distribute easy-to-use information about the trust's operations and current objectives while expanding opportunities for increased public engagement with the Trust's work.

Bullet Nine: "Ag Support" change to "agricultural support". Bullet will read: Develop agricultural support programs to strengthen the local Ag economy.

Bullet Ten: Add "selected" before Fee. Bullet will read: Improve public access to selected Fee Properties for recreation, hunting and other appropriate uses.

Bullet Eleven: This bullet to be moved to the objectives page.

Motion to adopt the Mission Statement and Supporting Points as written and edited at this time made by T. Johnston. Second by S. Souza. 6-0 approve.

Sub-committees:

The list of sub-committees was reviewed.

- Change Administrative and Finance sub-committee to Executive Committee.
- Change Communications and Outreach Sub-Committee to Outreach Sub-Committee. Communication would be part of the Outreach.
- Holdings Sub-Committee renamed to Land Protection Sub-Committee
- Recreation & Hunting will be named Recreation Sub-Committee
- Strategy Sub-Committee
- Stewardship Sub-Committee

Sub-Committees will set their goals. The goals will be more sub-committee focused.

Sub-Committees members were suggested by D. McNaughton

Exec: Don, Steve, Ed
Strategy: Ed (chair), Mike
Outreach: Taylor (chair), and Ned
Land Protection: Ned (Chair), Steve, Mike
Stewardship: Wayne (chair), Don, Taylor
Recreation: Steve (chair), Wayne

Members were asked to come to the May meeting with duties and goals for 2026. D. McNaughton suggested three focused goals.

D. McNaughton and S. Souza will meet with each chair between meetings. Updates at regular meetings as appropriate. Stewardship reports were something that was done under Rusty Cabot. The report helped to streamline the process.

D. McNaughton will circulate the assignments to members. Members can change committees if they choose.

Motion to adjourn made by N. Levine. Second by E. Bowen. 6-0 approve.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Cady