

Approved Minutes
Little Compton Agricultural Conservancy Trust
Meeting
May 6, 2026

1.) Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm, by S. Souza. Members present were M. Steers, W. Montgomery, Ed Bowen, Taylor Johnston, and S. Souza.

D. McNaughton was absent.
One vacant position.

S. Souza explained that Ned Levine has resigned from the Trust. He thanked Ned for his hard work and service to the Trust.

2.) Minutes: The Public Session and Executive Session minutes from the meetings of April 1, 2026, April 2, 2026, and site visit minutes from April 26, 2026, were reviewed.

Motion to approve the Public Session minutes from April 1, 2026, made by W. Montgomery. Second by E. Bowen. 5-0 approve.

Motion to approve the Executive Session minutes from April 1, 2026, made by E. Bowen. Second by T. Johnston. 5-0 approve.

Motion to approve the Public Session minutes from the meeting of April 2, 2026, made by W. Montgomery. Second by E. Bowen. 5-0 approve.

Motion to approve the site visit minutes from April 26, 2026, made by W. Montgomery. Second by E. Bowen. 5-0 approve.

3.) Consent Agenda:

- * Email received from Alison Miller dated 4-6-2026, re: Landscape Subscription Invoice,
- * Email received from Kate Sayles, dated 3-25-2026, re: Thank you for being part of the 2026 Land & Water Summit!
- * Email received from Davy Cutts, dated 4-2-2026, re: Inquiry from Website – Meeting Recording,
- * Email received from USDA Farm Service Agency, dated 4-7-2026, re: USDA Reopens Acreage Reporting Period for Specialty Crop Farmers Impacted by Unfair Market Disruptions,
- * Email received from Heather Cook, dated 4-12-2026, re: Fw: 2026 Open Government Summit Registration is OPEN!
- * Email received from Heather Cook, dated 4-20-2026, re: Little Compton Clerk’s Office – Friday, May 1, 2026 – closed,
- *Email received from Kate Sayles, dated 4-13-2026, re: Action Alert: We need your help to Make the Green Bond Greener!,
- * Email received from Ned Levine, dated 4-2026, re: Fw: good press – thanks to you!
- * Email received from Amy Mooney dated 4-15-2026, re; Westport Land Trust /food bank collab,
- * Email received from Chris Clark, lcenter, dated 4-15-2026, re: May Newsletter Inclusion,
- * Email received from John Berg, re: share your input please – on REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE in Rhode Island,
- * Email received A D Lindsay, dated 4-24-2026, re: Seeking information,
- * Letter received from Enbridge, dated, 3-25-2026, re: Open House Meeting on 4-30-2026,
- * Email received from USDA in Rhode Island, dated 4-16-2026, re: Rhode Island USDA Service Center April 2026 Newsletter,
- *Received RI Land Trust Council ENews April 2026,
- * Email received from USDA in Rhode Island, dated 4-27-2026, re: USDA Announces \$52 Million to Boost Public Access to Private Lands for Hunting.
- * Email received from Kate Sayles, dated 4-27-2026, re: Last Chance to Make the Green Bond Greener!
- * Email received from Kate Sayles dated 4-27-2026, re: Late April Land Trust Leaders Update

4.) Correspondence:

- Email received from Heather Cook, dated 4-17-2026, re: Bill G. 401-258-0865-please call. C. Cady explained that Mr. Gustafson asked about the mowing that was happening on the Simmons property. C. Cady explained that is the annual mowing of the property.

5.) Finance Committee / Treasurer’s Report

-Account Balances

- E. Bowen reported the bank account balances as of April 30, 2026:

Washington Trust Checking	\$ 8,356.
Washington Trust Money Market	\$1,354,536.
Washington Trust Savings	\$4,195,190.

The total of all accounts is \$5,558,082.

- Payment of Bills:

- Bills to be Paid:

Trafx Data Net Plan	\$ 500.00
Dendroyka Software	\$ 1,798.80
RI DEM	\$ 26.25
RIDEM	\$ 26.25
Mailchimp	\$ 21.40
Whelan, Corrente, Flanders	\$ 115.50
DeSautel & Browning	\$12,056.50
Rich McGee & Son Excavating	\$ 2,700.00
Cheryl Cady	\$ 5,130.00
Mosaic Land Management	\$10,420.00
Town of Little Compton	\$ 270.00
US Post Office	\$ 216.00
Google	\$ 107.86

Motion to accept the bills as stated and authorize payment made by S. Souza. Second by W. Montgomery 5-0 approve.

- Credit Card Application and Usage: Currently waiting for the card. C. cady reported that she does have access to the town credit card for purchases.

- Review of Transfer Tax Returns:

-During the period of April 3, 2026, through April 27, 2026, transfer taxes in the amount of \$209,820.00 were paid to the Trust. This reflects transfer #3527 through 3531. The Transfer Taxes were reviewed. Disputed tax amounts were noted on transfer tax forms 3529 and 3530. Each disputed amount was \$990.00.

Email received from Nancy Costa dated 4-27-2026, re 82B Warren’s Point Road. She was seeking assistance in calculating the transfer tax amount. Costa was contacted and the calculated transfer tax amount was confirmed

Email received from Bill Boudreau, dated 4-21-2026, re: Request to be on the Agenda. – Letter requesting donation to the Little Compton Celebrates America 250 Committee. Mr. Boudreau

was in attendance and explained the Committee is looking for sponsors for events. Saturday of the celebration will feature a number of farming events. There will also be a chicken BBQ. The Committee would like to keep costs down. In return for being a sponsor, sponsors can display a banner and exhibits. Produce for the events will be purchased locally.

The cost for the BBQ, pony rides and petting zoo is \$8,700.00 The cost for the petting zoo and pony rides is \$2,800.00.

Everything except the BBQ will be free.

Further discussion regarding a donation to the LC 250 Committee will take place at June LCACT meeting.

6.) Sub-committee Reports:

- **Strategy Committee Update:** The Strategy Committee compiled suggested objectives for 2026 from each sub-committee.

Motion to accept the objectives as proposed made S. Souza. Second by T. Johnston. 5-0 approve

Members discussed the Mission Statement and objectives being appended to the website. They can be placed on the website as two separate documents.

Motion to add two separate documents (Mission Statement and 2026 sub-committee objectives) to the website made by T. Johnston. Second by M. Steers. 5-0 approve.

- Communication/Outreach:

- LCACT website update:

- JetPack monthly report was received.

- It was noted that the LCACT website can now be accessed via www.lcact.net. This is a change from https. If the browser is used to using https, then it needs to be updated to use www. This is achieved by clearing the browser cookies on individual computers.

-LCACT.net email addresses:

- Members have all been assigned new email addresses. Members should begin to transition to the new lcact.net email addresses. The email addresses will be published on the LCACT website under members' bios.

- lcact.net email addresses: new email addresses have been set up for members.

- Email received from Margie Brennan, dated 3-29-2026, re:Fw: Introduction to AgInnovation and Potential Partnerships Opportunity: S. Souza reported has emailed Ms. Brennan. He invited her to attend LCACT meeting. He is following up with her. This may be a school and LCACT partnership.

- Stewardship Committee: (Review/take action/vote):

- Beck/Wattles (plat 47, Lot 3-2A99): M. Steers reported that when the driller has picked a spot for the well, it will be indicated on the survey.

- Apfel/Simons (Plat 1, Lot 168): LCACT has reached out to the Thibaults. T. Johnston and W. Montgomery will be meeting with them.

- Byrne/Chace (Plat 2, Lot 11-9): The driveway has been relocated off of the easement land and onto un-conserved land.

- Sakonnet Vineyards (Plat 22, Lots 8-5, 8-6, 8-7, 8-8, 8-9, 8-11, 8-13, 8-14):

-Email received from Don McNaughton, dated 4-24-2026, re:FWD, Helger Car Show (without typos):

- T. Johnston reported that she and W. Montgomery met with James David to understand the emergency egress for the car show. The event has been approved.

up.

- Ham (Plat 31, Lots 43-4 and 43-5): The old foundation and old shed have been cleaned

- Neronha Preserve/Couto (Plat 44, lot 24-4): The debris has been cleaned up, and the sign has been erected.

- Southworth/Aldrich (plat 15, Lot 3-4): Drainage request – No discussion.

- Gilbert/Chartier (Plat 26, Lot 19-12): W. Montgomery, T. Johnston and C. Trocki met with the owner of the property. The barn is being used for agricultural purposes and there is a chicken coop.

- Ratcliffe (Plat 1, Lots 275 and 276): The trail report was reviewed and discussed. The use is steady and indicative of neighborhood use.

- General Stewardship Update: No discussion.

- General Maintenance

- Theresa's Way: Road repairs to be completed.

- Land Protection Committee Update/Review Property Status/take action:

- **Harlan C. Billings Trust (Plat 29, Lot 42):** M. Steers and S. Souza met with a family member. They are not sure what they would like to do. They have asked that the application be placed on hold until they make a decision.

- **Haffenreffer/ Brady (Plat 37, Lot 38):** Mrs. Brady reached out to reschedule the site visit.

- **Yorks (Plat 26, Lot 8-4):** The maps of the property have been received. Further discussion in Executive Session.

- **Fontaine (Plat 29, Lot 41):** The maps of the property have been received. Further discussion in Executive Session.

- **The Nature Conservancy (Plat 20, Lots 40-4, 44-3, 44-5):** The baseline documentation report for the property has been completed. TNC is waiting for the survey. S. Souza, M. Steers and John Berg have discussed the property. M. Steers has reached out to Attorney Marion with suggestions for the easement. Mr. Berg is aiming for closing in June but may need to extend the date. The grant agreement may also need to be extended by LCACT to TNC.

- Recreation and Hunting Committee:

- Hunting Update:

- S. Souza reported that a survey was sent to hunters to get a sense of hunting this past season. There were thirty-three hunters on fifteen properties.

- Total deer harvested: 9

- General comments: satisfied with the program,

- Suggestions from hunters included:

- Continue to manage locally,

- Increase number of properties for hunting,

- Consider license and tag reimbursement,

- Concern about the number of hunters per property.

- Nuisance Permits: These permits allow for an increased number of deer to be harvested. Hunters are given five tags to start, but there is no limit on how many can be obtained. W. Montgomery explained that hunters who previously hunted the farmed property were chosen to hunt under the nuisance permit for that property. The cost per property permit is \$25.00.

Lynne Brousseau was in attendance. She said that the survey should have asked if does or bucks were taken and that hunters should be required to take a doe before a buck. She questioned why an out of town resident was given permission for a property over a resident. She also stated that another Hunting Sub-committee meeting is needed.

W. Montgomery explained that he is concerned about deer eating crops and not which sex is harvested.

S. Souza stated that there will be another hunter meeting prior to the start of the season. The next meeting of hunters may be in the form of a round table.

Julia Truzno suggested that the survey could be attached to the application.

7.) Policies and Procedures:

- No discussion.

8.) The Nature Conservancy:

- No discussion.

Motion to close the Public Session made by S. Souza. Second by T. Johnston 5-0 approve.

Executive Session:

Motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) (5) for the purpose of discussing land acquisitions/negotiations made by S. Souza. Second by T. Johnston. 5-0 approve. (Members were polled individually regarding the motion and voted as follows: (M. Steers - yes, S. Souza – yes, W. Montgomery – yes, E. Bowen – yes, T. Johnston - yes)

Entered Executive Session at 8:11pm.

11.) Return to Open Session: 9:24pm.

12.) Vote to seal the minutes of Executive Session: Motion to seal the minutes of Executive Session made by W. Montgomery. Second by T. Johnston. 5-0 approve.

13.) Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by M. Steers. Second by T. Johnston. 5-0 approve.

Adjourned 9:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Cady