

American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
Board of Ministries Special Meeting
October 15, 2024

The ABCORI Board of Ministries held a special meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 7 p.m. at Norwood Baptist Church with representatives of Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to discuss conservation possibilities for the Canonicus Camp and Conference Center property.

ABCORI Board Members Present: Beth Berry, Joanne Brown, Rev. Dr. Courtney Davis Olds, David Dolce, Jan Fletcher, Sue Guilmain, Eva Irby-Davis, Rev. Debra Lee, Rev. Dr. Cal Lord, Rev. Kathryn Palen, and Rev. Sarah Reed Jay

DEM Representatives Present: Dr. Jason McNamee, Bureau of Natural Resources deputy director; Brendan Buckless, senior environmental planner; and Michelle Sheehan, State Land Conservation Program manager

Call to Order/Opening Prayer: Cal Lord called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. and opened with prayer. DEM representatives were welcomed, and all those present introduced themselves.

Discussion: DEM representatives expressed gratitude to ABCORI for its years of stewardship of the Canonicus property and to the ABCORI board for exploring possibilities that would lead to conservation of the property when it is sold.

DEM representatives outlined possible opportunities for working together with ABCORI to ensure conservancy of the Canonicus property. A productive discussion followed, with representatives of both organizations offering questions and answers.

Conversations between the two organizations are to continue.

Closing: The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:22 p.m.