

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 09, 2015

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on June 09, 2015 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members in attendance: Stephen Mitchell, Russell K. Gross, George Charette, Steven St. Pierre, Gene Cavaliere (arrived during Treasurer's report), Roy Najecki, Rebecca Schultz and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Sr.

Members Absent:

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests:

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Open Forum Agenda Items Only:** No one present wished to speak at this time.

### **Approval of minutes of previous meetings**

- a. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2015 meeting; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously with Rebecca Schultz and George Charette abstaining.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Roy Najecki presented the trustees with an updated spreadsheet which showed that every line was within the budgeted amount. The cost for recording clerk Judi Rix finally hit the budget, and Chairman Mitchell was questioning why it doesn't hit every month instead of in a lump sum. Mr. Mitchell will discuss this with the finance office. Rebecca Schultz asked about the line of funds that are labeled Sprague account. Roy Najecki explained that those funds were from money generated at some point on that property, but are not earmarked for that property and can be moved. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to accept the budget report as presented; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Bills**

- a. Roy Najecki made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$290 for the May 12, 2015 meeting minutes and the May 19, 2015 meeting minutes as well as the additional \$22.18 FICA charge to the town; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.
- b. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay John Bevilacqua's May 2015 invoice for \$1,000; Gene Cavaliere seconded and it passed unanimously.
- c. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay the Data Frontiers invoice for \$576 for the annual Office 365 subscription; Gene Cavaliere seconded and it passed unanimously.

Stephen Mitchell wanted to clarify a bill from last meeting for over \$1,500 from BORI Graphix. Mr. Mitchell had to go back to the company to request two separate invoices to show the work done, and to show it was not one job that cost that amount. The finance office requires that any job over \$1,500 be put out to bid.

### **Old Business**

- a. Joe Sweet Trail Grant Update: Stephen Mitchell and Russell K. Gross met Chuck Hobert from the D.E. M. to go over where the proposed parking site would be. The plan is to put a parking area at the trail head to accommodate approximately 10 cars. Mr. Hobert did not believe the spot would be encroaching upon a wetland, but did recommend that the GLT submit a regulatory applicability application; the cost of the application is \$150.00 and it would be reimbursed to the board. Roy Najecki believes that the D.E.M would not require any applications if the Town of Gloucester didn't require it. Stephen Mitchell will look into this further and speak to the Town Building Inspector. Roy Najecki made a motion to allow Chairman

Mitchell to proceed with filling out any required application and to pay the fee that is associated with it; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously.

- b. Land Trust Youth Leadership Council Update: Rebecca Schultz said they have had a busy month of activities and brought the trustees some pictures of the students. When asked if the pictures could be put on the website, Mrs. Schultz said she would need to check with the students and their parents to get permission. The trustees would like to devote an entire section on the website to the program; no other land trust in RI has a similar program. The students worked on an indigenous plant project, conducted a reptile and amphibian inventory on Steere Hill with Mike Cavaliere and two of the students are working on an oral history report/project about the Hedesian family and their descendants. The students and Mr. Cavaliere will do a similar inventory at Sprague farm.
- c. Tour of Colwell Property: Stephen Mitchell received an email from Leslie Hyde asking where this stood and what the next steps were. Steven St. Pierre did walk the property and found that the boundaries are not clearly marked and the land is fairly wet with a stream running through the center of it. First 100-150 feet off of Cranberry Ridge is dry, but it would be beneficial to get an aerial picture from the state. The state has aerial pictures of properties, and will provide you with a copy. Mr. Mitchell will contact Mr. Hyde and inform him of what has transpired so far, and let him know the GLT will be asking for a copy of the aerial view photo from the state.

### **New Business**

- a. Cancellation of July Meeting: Stephen Mitchell wanted to suggest this to the board due to the amount of work being done outside of the meetings and to be respectful of family/vacation time for the trustees. Roy Najecki made a motion to cancel the July meetings; Rebecca Schultz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The board needs to post the cancellations in all the required locations.
- b. Ag Dept. Student Presentation: Mike Cavaliere (Gene's son and GLT volunteer) gave the presentation Rebecca Schultz felt it went well and was fortunate to have Gene Cavaliere come and help out, and thanked Roy Najecki for providing her with the Gloucester map. Mrs. Schultz will be doing work over the summer with the students for the future Farmers of America project to be displayed at the Washington County Fair in August. Stephen Mitchell sees many benefits to conducting field studies with the students.
- c. Indigenous planting request: Rebecca Schultz acquired some plants from the RI Plant Society and would like funding to purchase more plants to put around the new property signs. George Charette offered to help her select the plants, and if she would like him to get them for her, he would get them for a wholesale price. Roy Najecki made a motion to allow Rebecca Schultz to move forward with the purchase of the necessary plants and supplies for the amount of up to \$500; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.
- d. Volunteer Application Form Revision: Steven St. Pierre revised and simplified the old form; felt it was too long and too many non-relevant questions based on feedback he has been receiving. Roy Najecki would like the portion about volunteer expectations and obeying the land trust guide put back into the form. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the one revision and present final form in Aug for a vote; Gene Cavaliere seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Correspondence**

- a. Projector for Council Chambers: Stephen Mitchell received an email from Jean Fecteau informing him that the projector is finally being purchased. It will attach to laptops, so there will be no need to have to track one down for future GLT presentations.
- b. Steere Hill Coyote: Stephen Mitchell received an email from John Boucher asking if the trails on Steere Hill that are currently closed are going to stay that way permanently. Stephen Mitchell said that they would re-open, but probably not until August so the mother coyote and her pups have time to move on.

## **Trail Inspections**

- a. J. McGrath – Steere Hill (5/31/15): Many inspections done and work orders generated as an outcome. All of Steere Hill has been inspected and half of Sprague farm. There are some deficiencies, but nothing hazardous.

**Monthly GLT Activities – Reports:** Roy Najecki did some mowing last weekend at the top of Steere Hill, and Mr. Najecki would like to have some John Deere tractor training for the trustees. Russell K. Gross will get the tractor moved to the adjacent field for training. Roy Najecki would like to organize 3-4 walks over the next couple of months; the walks should have no cost associated with them. Mr. Najecki will put together some dates and let the trustees know what he has planned. Roy Najecki made a motion to spend up to \$500 for the season's activities, including Land Trust Days; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.

**Open Forum** Stephen Mitchell just wanted to restate that even though the board is in recess for the month of July, there will still be many things getting accomplished by the trustees: trees at Hawkins will be handled, install gate at Phillips Farm' install the protective grate at the Hawkins Dam, move lateral file cabinet into room 5, working on management plans over the summer, and erecting new signs with at least one going up in July. John Bevilacqua wanted to inform the board that the Secretary of State will be holding its annual open meeting conference in July, and he would encourage the trustees to attend if possible.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by Roy Najecki to convene to Executive Session; it was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and passed by all. Roy Najecki made a motion to leave Executive Session, Gene Cavaliere seconded the motion and it passed by all.

## **Executive Session Motions:**

### **Title 42 Section 42-46-5 (5) Purposes for which meeting may be closed to the public**

Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.

- a. Acquisition of land and / or conservation easement: Russell K. Gross made a motion for the trustees to consider whether they would like to get involved in overseeing the open space in the Great Walls Common development; Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and each trustee was polled individually. With a vote of "No" indicating no involvement with the project, and a vote of "Yes" indicating further involvement, here is how they voted: Russell K. Gross – No, Steven St. Pierre – No, Rebecca Schultz – No, Gene Cavaliere – No, Roy Najecki – Yes, George Charette – No and Stephen Mitchell – No. The motion failed with a 6 to 1 vote and the board will have no further involvement with this development.

There being no further business before the Land Trust, Russell K. Gross made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and it passed unanimously.

**APPROVED AT AUGUST 11, 2015 MEETING.**