

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
REGULAR MEETING
November 14, 2017

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on November 14, 2017 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members in attendance: Stephen Mitchell, Gene Cavaliere, Steven St. Pierre, Russell K. Gross, Janine Pitocco, Roy Najecki, David Piccirillo and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Sr.

Members Absent: None

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Open Forum Agenda Items Only: No one present wished to speak.

Approval of minutes of previous meetings

a. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2017 meeting; it was seconded by Roy Najecki and passed unanimously with Stephen St. Pierre abstaining due to his absence at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Roy Najecki provided an updated treasurer's report which reflected all expenses up until the end of October. Janine Pitocco made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills:

a. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$178.00 for the October 10, 2017 meeting minutes and hyperlinking of agenda; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay John J. Bevilacqua \$1,000 for monthly services for October 2017; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay Recognition Awards \$1500.00 for the bronze plaque for Steere Hill; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. This is just for the record since the bill was already paid.

d. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay Balloons over RI/BORI Graphix \$668.15 for the Phillips Farm sign; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. This is just for the record since the bill was already paid.

e. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay Carol Lynn Trocki \$1225.00 for her portion of completing the Open Space grant application; Roy Najecki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

f. Roy Najecki made a motion to pay Gervasio Construction Company \$1500.00 for installing two new 14 foot steel gates at Steere Hill and Hawkins Pond; David Piccirillo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

g. Stephen St. Pierre made a motion to pay Scituate Lumber \$58.20 for 12 bags of cement mix for use with granite slab and dedication plaque at Steere Hill; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

- a. Installation of new gates at GLT Properties: Jim Gervasio of Gervasio Construction Company installed 14 foot steel gates at Steere Hill and Hawkins Pond, and did a great job. The Board has two more gates to install and will be asking Mr. Gervasio to complete those tasks as well. The first gate is at Phillips farm and the second is another gate that will go on the Hawkins' property.
- b. Status of Sign Installation on GLT Properties: Chairman Mitchell would also like to ask Gervasio Construction to install the signs for the properties. If the cost is under \$1,500 the job does not need to go out to bid. Stephen St. Pierre tried to reach out to other companies, but none of them returned his call. The Board just needs to decide where they will be placed on each property.
- c. Trail Grant Application – Joe Sweet Property: Roy Najecki believes the meeting is next week, and the Board may have an answer in 3-4 weeks as to whether or not they will be awarded the grant.
- d. Memorial Plaque Dedication Ceremony at Steere Hill Conservation Area: The dedication ceremony went exceptionally well and the weather was beautiful that day. Mr. Heditsian's 96 year old son said a few words that day, and a professional photographer hired by the family was there to take pictures. The family posed for a picture at the top of Steere Hill, and once they become available, the family said they would share them with the GLT. Chairman Mitchell thanked all of the people involved in making this happen, but since he did not prepare his remarks in advance, forgot to mention GLT trustee Russell K. Gross. Chairman Mitchell wanted to take a moment tonight to formally thank Mr. Gross and apologize for not mentioning him at the ceremony.
- e. Eagle Scout Project at Steere Hill: This took place about two weeks ago and Roy Najecki was at Steere Hill to oversee the project on behalf of the Land Trust. There were approximately 20 scouts on hand to help and with the use of both manual and gas-powered posthole diggers, they were able to get about 14 signs up. The scouts will need another day to finish the project, and are looking at the weekend after Thanksgiving so it can be completed by the end of the month.

New Business

- a. Request Workshop Session with Town Council to discuss Hawkins Dam Report: Chairman Steven Mitchell spoke with the President of the Town Council to discuss the Hawkins Dam report and what next steps for the town would be. Due to safety concerns for the residents of Gloucester, immediate action needs to be taken. Mr. Mitchell would like Attorney John Bevilacqua to contact the legal counsel for the Town Council to set up a workshop for a future date. An RFP will need to be done, just to get some idea of costs associated with the project, prior to a joint workshop being held. Attorney Bevilacqua will also look into the state's purchasing list for possible vendors and bring that information back to the GLT for the December meeting.
- b. Open Space Grant Application: Chairman Steven Mitchell spent over 20 hours working on this. Carol Trocki and Roy Najecki were both very helpful in getting the application completed and submitted on time. Part of the application required information that was only available by accessing the property, so permission was obtained from the family and their attorney to allow Carol and Roy to walk the property. The Board will now just wait and see if they are awarded the grant. As Attorney Bevilacqua pointed out, the Board is under no obligation to accept the grant or move forward with the purchase of the property in question. A certified real estate appraisal would be required if they do decide to move forward, but the Board is not making any decisions until they receive an answer on the grant.
- c. Construction of bridges on Phillips Farm Property: Chairman Steven Mitchell received a call from a neighbor of the Steere Hill property about an equestrian group that he knew of that was willing to pay for bridges to be built on Phillips Farm. Stephen St. Pierre attempted to reach out to the equestrian group several times, and even invited them to tonight's meeting, but nobody has responded to him as of today.

d. Volunteer Application – Kim Justham 10/25/17: The Board received an application from Mrs. Justham to become a volunteer. Stephen St. Pierre made a motion to approve and accept the application submitted by Kim Justham to become a GLT volunteer; seconded by Russell K. Gross and it passed unanimously. Chairman Mitchell will notify her of the acceptance.

e. Set future date to review and update Strategic and Action Plan: Chairman Mitchell would like to set a meeting date to review and update the GLT's Strategic and Action Plan. His preference would be to make it a workshop meeting so they can spend time on the topic, and would like to convene in either January or February. After some discussion, it was agreed upon that the workshop meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 7pm in the Town Council chambers at Town Hall.

Correspondence:

a. Monthly Trust Report: Monthly report provided to the GLT, just for informational purposes because there were no changes since last month.

b. RI Land Trust E-News September 27, 2018: Shared with the trustees for informational purposes.

c. Trustee Computer Issue 10/28/17: Several trustees having issues with their laptops, purchasing new technology will be revisited in the new year.

d. Rebecca Schultz re: Heditsian Plaque Dedication 10/28/17: Rebecca Schultz wrote to Chairman Mitchell to say what a beautiful and thoughtful ceremony the dedication was, and what a nice job the GLT did.

Trail Inspection and Volunteer Hour(s) Reports: Stephen St. Pierre indicated that all the trail inspections at Steere Hill were completed for the fall, but then the storm came, and he went back out to check for fallen trees. There were many trees that had been impacted by the storm and some were "hanging" so he had to take them down for the safety of the people using the trails. Roy Najecki stated that there were also trees impacted by the storm at Sprague Farm, but all had fallen completely to the ground and were not a danger. The trails are still accessible and the fallen trees can be walked around. Chairman Mitchell wanted to encourage the trustees to log their volunteer hours, and said he will try and do a better job of logging the hours he volunteers. Mr. Mitchell wants the Town Council to be aware of all the time the trustees dedicate to the town, taking care of, and improving these properties.

Monthly GLT Activities / Reports: No GLT sponsored activities to report on.

Open Forum: No one present wished to speak.

Executive Session: There was no Executive Session at this meeting.

There being no further business before the Land Trust, Janine Pitocco made a motion to adjourn at 7:45p.m. The motion was seconded by Roy Najecki and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT JANUARY 09, 2018 MEETING.