

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
WORKSHOP MEETING
January 23, 2018

The workshop meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on January 23, 2018 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 (arrived at 7:06pm), Steven St. Pierre, Russell K. Gross, David Piccirillo, Janine Pitocco, Roy Najecki 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. Roy Najecki pointed out that in the minutes under Correspondence item “c” relating to NCRS funding opportunities, the word ‘not’ needed to be removed from the last part of the last sentence. Instead of reading “the Gloucester Land Trust would not be eligible to receive any of those funds because they are not a municipal land trust”, it should read “the Gloucester Land Trust would not be eligible to receive any of those funds because they are a municipal land trust”. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the January 09, 2018 meeting; it was seconded by Janine Pitocco and passed unanimously with Steven St. Pierre and David Piccirillo abstaining due to their absence at the last meeting.

Approval of Bills:

- a. Roy Najecki made a motion to pay John J. Bevilacqua \$2,000 for January 9, 2018 and January 23, 2018 meetings; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- b. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$192.00 for minutes and hyperlink preparation of agenda for December 12, 2017 and January 09, 2018; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

- a. Certificates of Appreciation to Town Highway Department: Chairman Steven Mitchell asked for this item to be tabled until a future meeting.
- b. Certificates of Appreciation to Troop #44 and Eagle Scout Project Volunteers: Chairman Steven Mitchell received an email from Miles Bertram asking for this item to be postponed; Mr. Bertram will contact the Board, at least a week prior to a meeting, when they are ready to attend.

Roy Najecki made a motion to table both items A&B until a future GLT meeting; Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- c. Review and Updates to 2015-2018 GLT Strategic Plan and Action Plans: Chairman Steven Mitchell provided the Board members with a copy of each plan ahead of time, and directed them to the “one

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drive” where it was available to view as well. Chairman Mitchell will make the changes discussed this evening, and send revised documents to the Board Members before the next scheduled meeting; he would like to have this on the February agenda for approval if possible.

Gene Cavaliere asked if the Gloucester Land Trust’s stated mission was applicable to the entire town, or just applicable to the Land Trust properties. Attorney Bevilacqua responded that it applies only to the properties the Land Trust has been enabled, by a legislative act in 1987, to oversee. The Board began its review by looking at the Strategic Plan. Overall the Board Members were pleased with the plan as is, but a few changes and/or updates to the “Accomplishments” portion of the plan were needed. This portion lists the 2,429 acres of land that has been conserved for the town and the names of those properties.

The Board then began its review of the Action Plan, which contained four short term objectives and three long term objectives. Short term objective number one to *Review and Update Management and Forestry Plans on a rotating five year basis*, is still in process with the first three properties completed. The remainder of the properties need to be completed as well, and Chairman Mitchell asked for a volunteer from the Board to assist him and Roy Najecki in this task; Gene Cavaliere volunteered to help. Short term objective number two to *Develop and Implement a Trail Inspection Protocol*, has been completed. Short term objective number three to *Prioritize List to Institute a Maintenance Timeline and Stewardship of GLT Properties*, is ongoing and Russell K. Gross and Steven St. Pierre will work on establishing the maintenance timeline and identifying two GLT properties each year to be worked on. Roy Najecki and Steven St. Pierre will work on the coordination of volunteers to assist with stewardship. Short term objective number four to *Investigate and Establish a Youth Leadership Council*, was explored with a pilot program that the Board has decided not to continue; they will remain a resource to the high school and Eagle Scouts.

Chairman Mitchell asked how the Board felt about only having two short term objectives. Roy Najecki and several of the Board members felt there would be plenty of work to do with trying to achieve those two goals. Russell K. Gross reminded the Board that not only will there be two objectives to complete, but the Board will also be dealing with, and working on, the Hawkins Dam repair.

Moving on to the long term objectives, the first objective of *Complete Baseline Documentation for all GLT Properties* is in process. Two properties have been completed, one should be completed this spring. The departure of Rebecca Schultz from the Board has provided an opportunity for another Board Member to work on this; Chairman Mitchell asked David Piccirillo to assist with this objective. Long term objective number two to *Pursue and achieve National Accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance and adopt the Standards and Practices of the Land Trust Alliance as its guiding principles to guarantee future preservation of our beautiful properties*, has been put on hold and will not be a part of the revised action plan. Long term objective number three to *Institute a process to seek alternate funding sources for Trust properties to upgrade parking lots, signage, informational brochures, trails, and trail markers for public information*, has three parts and the first part relating to tree harvesting turned out to not be either profitable or practical for the Board, so it will be removed. The second and third part are ongoing and will be combined into one; they pertain to seeking alternate funding and applying for grants.

Chairman Mitchell then asked if any of the Board Members had any long term objectives they wanted to add. Janine Pitocco asked if either the Hawkins Dam repair or the Steere Hill Parking Area project should be included as long term objectives. Chairman Mitchell thought those were excellent suggestions

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and will prepare a rough draft on the Hawkins Dam goal to have available for review at the February meeting. The Steere Hill Parking Area project would fall under the short term maintenance goal because the Board is considering making small incremental improvements and not making it one huge project. Roy Najecki felt it was worth discussing that Governor Raimondo has bond money that includes several million dollars for state dam repair, and he wondered if the Hawkins property would qualify for some of that funding since there is a state easement on it. Would need to let Senator Fogarty know that the Board would be interested in finding out if the Hawkins property would qualify for state funds.

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

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

APPROVED AT FEBRUARY 13, 2018 MEETING.