

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
REGULAR MEETING
May 22, 2018

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on May 22, 2018 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members in attendance: Stephen Mitchell, Steven St. Pierre, Russell K. Gross, Roy Najecki, Gene Cavaliere (arrived at 7:03), David Piccirillo and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Sr.

Members Absent: Janine Pitocco

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 had two items he noticed were incorrect; both were dollar amounts and were listed in the portion of the minutes for the Treasurer's Report and the Bills. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the April 10, 2018 meeting; it was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and passed unanimously with Gene Cavaliere and David Piccirillo abstaining due to their absence at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Roy Najecki provided an updated treasurer's report which reflected all current expenses and deposits. There was nothing significant to report on; Chairman Mitchell is very pleased with the balance available to the Board. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; it was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills:

a. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$164.00 for the April 10, 2018 meeting minutes and hyperlinking of agenda; Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay John Bevilacqua \$1,000 for Legal Services for April 2018; Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

a. Construction of bridges on Phillips Farm Property: Steven St. Pierre confirmed with Ms. Becky Kalagher of the Bay State Trail Riders Association that she had received the information Roy Najecki had provided on the bridge company. The cost to do what the group had proposed is immense, with the three bridges costing over \$66,000, and then an additional cost of assembling them, the project would cost close to \$100,000. Roy Najecki continued to do research in the hope of finding an affordable alternative, but an engineer would still need to be hired. Not easy to find an engineer to take on the project due to the high liability that would accompany it. Chairman Mitchell restated that this is an outside group proposing this project on GLT land, not a project the Board was originally pursuing. The group has the information, and they can decide how they would like to proceed.

b. Summer Youth Program and GLT: Roy Najecki spoke to Beth at the DPW, and the Gloucester DPW cannot do this at the request of the Land Trust. If the town directed them to do it, that would be a

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different story. Stephen Mitchell has reached out to the President of the Town Council, and is waiting on a response.

c. Opening of release valve at Hawkins Pond during high water 4/25/18: Trustee Russell K. Gross and his son, GLT volunteer Russell G. Gross opened the release valve, for approximately 24 hours, to lower the water level of the pond. The water level did not drop significantly, and if heavy rain is forecasted again, it may need to be lowered even more. Chairman Mitchell and Trustee Gross believe the valve should be opened every four months or so to ensure it is working properly.

d. Update of GLT Website: Chairman Mitchell thinks the updated GLT website looks great, and wanted to publicly thank Trustee Steven St. Pierre for all of his hard work in getting it this way. It would have cost the Board a lot of money to have hired someone to do the work Trustee St. Pierre did for free. Russell K. Gross suggested that Chairman Mitchell give Mr. St. Pierre a certificate for his service to the Board.

New Business

a. Hawkins Garage painting request for RFP approval: Chairman Mitchell thinks the garage is looking pretty sad, and could use a new paint job. Russell K. Gross would like to see the schoolhouse addressed as well; both buildings are classified as historic by the town. Steven St. Pierre suggested that the Board use one of their workshop meetings to conduct a site visit to both of the buildings, so the Board can evaluate how they would like to proceed and hold an informed discussion. This agenda item was tabled until the June meeting when they can decide upon a workshop date.

b. Seek to secure bid of engineer for Hawkins Spillway and Causeway: Attorney Bevilacqua has not moved this forward; Steven St. Pierre is going to reach out to the local engineering business that conducted the recent inspection. This agenda item was tabled until the June meeting.

c. Laptop computers update from our service provider: Stephen Mitchell spoke to Mr. Rob Bonnell and it was determined that each tablet will cost \$800-\$1,000. Chairman Mitchell is going to speak with the town's IT person (Matt Floor) to determine if the Board would be eligible for a government discount. The item was tabled until June to bring back before the Board for approval.

d. ATV and Dirt Bikes on GLT properties: Chairman Mitchell received an email from a gentleman asking about ATV and Dirt bikes on GLT property. The man believed there were people riding them on GLT property recently, and thought they were prohibited. They are prohibited, but the Board believes the morning in question was actually a large organized event that happens annually in town; where the riders stay on town roads and do not actually go onto GLT property at all. If the riders were on GLT property, then the Board could look into it, but that does not seem to be the case in this instance.

e. Alternate revenue sources generated on Land Trust properties: There was a recent inquiry about putting solar panels on GLT properties. An example was provided using the top of Steere Hill as the location. This would not be a feasible location due to the amount of work involved in putting them there, and it is also currently prohibited in the conservation easement. The conservation easement prohibits structures, fences, buildings, etc.; the Board would need to get a variance from the D.E.M. to make this happen and that is very unlikely. Roy Najecki did suggest two locations that it would not be prohibited on: Clarkville Schoolhouse lot and the Hawkins house site lot. Both of those lots are approximately 4 acres and are separate from the GLT land they abut.

f. Annual Inspection of Dahlquist Easement: Chairman Mitchell received a letter from the NRCS asking for a report on the annual inspection of the Dahlquist Easement. Stephen Mitchell and Russell K. Gross will conduct the inspection so the report can be submitted.

Correspondence

a. Nicholas Russo (survey for Canada Banded Warbler): Mr. Russo is a resident of Scituate, a researcher for the *Bird Genoscape Project* and interested in performing a small-scale study with Canada Warblers

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at the Sprague Farm property. The project is striving to produce a map of population-specific migratory routes, to be used for research and conservation purposes. Producing this map requires the collection of a feather and blood sample from birds across the species' breeding, migratory, and wintering range. He is coordinating the New England sampling effort, and would like to mist-net and sample Canada Warblers at Sprague Farm on 1-3 days in June and July 2018. Chairman Mitchell gave him permission to perform the study, and asked him to share the results with the Board.

b. Alfred Guay (fishing at Hawkins Pond): Mr. Guay asked for permission to fish at Hawkins Pond, and Chairman Mitchell told him he could and asked him to park near the garage.

c. RI DEM Survey Request (2018 CAPS Survey): The RI DEM Division of Agriculture CAPS program requested access to the Steere Hill and Phillips Farm Trails properties in order to conduct preventative trapping surveys for exotic and invasive plant pests. The survey will take place May 15 - September 30, 2018. Between those dates, insect traps will be placed on the perimeter of the property and monitored bi-weekly by Division of Agriculture staff. Chairman Mitchell granted them access to the requested properties.

Trail Inspection and Volunteer Hour(s) Reports: Nothing significant to report. Roy Najecki indicated that he and Gene Cavaliere are a little behind, but will get them done very soon.

Monthly GLT Activities / Reports: No GLT sponsored activities to report on, but Gene Cavaliere met with the Blackstone Valley Biking group and they have decided they will not need to access GLT property for their planned ride.

Open Forum: The next meeting will be on June 12th, and Chairman Mitchell is hoping the local engineer that did the recent dam inspection will attend, then the Board can take more information to the Town Council.

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 7:58 p.m. The motion was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT JUNE 12, 2018 MEETING.