

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 12, 2019

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on March 12, 2019 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent:

Minutes: Judi Rix via recording

Guests: Bill Brown of the Historical Cemeteries Committee; Edna Kent, Gloucester Town Historian

**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 February 26, 2019 meeting; it was seconded by Janine Pitocco and passed unanimously with Steven St. Pierre abstaining due to his absence at that meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Roy Najecki provided an updated treasurer's report for the rest of the Board to review; there was nothing remarkable from last month. The real estate funds have not been transferred yet according to the finance office; they are behind in that office because they are working shorthanded. Chairman Mitchell and Legal Counsel Bevilacqua spoke to the Finance Director about moving funds from the open space funds budget line, into the Hawkins Dam repair budget line, to start covering the expenses the Board has already begun incurring.

**Approval of Bills:**

- a. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay Judi Rix a total of \$178.00 for February 26, 2019 Minutes; it was seconded by Janine Pitocco and passed unanimously.
- b. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay John J. Bevilacqua, Sr. a total of \$1,000.00 for Legal Services for February 2019; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

- a. Joe Sweet Parking Lot Update: Chairman Stephen Mitchell spoke to the contractor for the project, and March 8<sup>th</sup> was the start date. Unfortunately, due to the weather recently, the project has still not started and there is no update to provide.
- b. Encroachment on Hopkins Properties Update: Attorney Bevilacqua sent letters via regular and registered mail, to notify Mr. Jonathan Davies (the landowner) that he must rectify the encroachment issue or the GLT will take legal action to have the pool and shed removed. Attorney Bevilacqua gave Mr. Davies ten days to contact him to discuss a timeline, due to the weather we have had recently, making removal a challenge right now.

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- c. Negotiation results with D'Ambra Construction Co at Steere Hill Parking Lot: Chairman Mitchell and Attorney Bevilacqua met with members of D'Ambra Construction to discuss their request and get more details. They have since found an alternate site for their equipment, but are willing to help in any way they can with the Steere Hill lot during the construction process. GLT was not looking for monetary fees for using the lot, but had hoped for an "in kind" type of agreement; D'Ambra Construction was amenable to that.
- d. Eagle Scout Project Update: Scout leader Myles Beltram and Scout Donald Rossi are discussing the projects suggested and will get back to Mr. Najecki with which project they will select; he has not heard back from them yet.

### **New Business** (discussions and/or action)

- a. Election of Officers: Legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua conducted the first portion of the agenda item. Attorney Bevilacqua asked for nominations for the position of Chairman, and Roy Najecki nominated Stephen Mitchell; no one else had a nomination. Russell K. Gross made a motion to re-elect Stephen Mitchell as Chairman; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chairman Mitchell asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman, and Russell K. Gross nominated Steven St. Pierre; no one else had a nomination. Russell K. Gross made a motion to re-elect Steven St. Pierre as Vice-Chairman; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chairman Mitchell asked for nominations for the position of Treasurer, and Russell K. Gross nominated Roy Najecki; no one else had a nomination. Russell K. Gross made a motion to re-elect Roy Najecki; as Treasurer; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The existing GLT officers were re-elected as follows: Stephen Mitchell as Chairman, Steven St. Pierre as Vice-Chairman and Roy Najecki as Treasurer.
- b. Historic Cemeteries: Bill Brown of the Gloucester Historical Cemeteries Committee with the Heritage Society, came to talk to the Board about the historic cemeteries he believes are associated with the Gloucester Land Trust. Roy Najecki indicated that there are actually five recognized historical cemeteries on Land Trust property. (Ben Garrity, Sprague, Clark, Kwandrans, and Steere Hill, and a lot created by Reverend Whitworth, which Roy believes is empty.) Has been meeting with the governor's representative and the veteran's administration trying to identify where veterans are buried in Gloucester. Starting next month, he and some volunteers will be placing flags at as many veteran's graves as possible. Mr. Brown was hoping the Board would help him in getting those cemeteries cleaned up and keeping them maintained. Chairman Mitchell also directed him to Mr. Beltram to maybe offer that as an Eagle Scout project for some of his scouts and the high school students as well. Board Member Janine Pitocco also offered to reach out to FM Global employees that get dedicated volunteer hours for such projects. Chairman Mitchell told Mr. Brown they are more than happy to help this worthwhile project in any way they can. Attorney Bevilacqua asked how much money Mr. Brown thought he needed for this Gloucester project, and he responded that he estimated \$20,000-\$25,000. Attorney Bevilacqua also advised Mr. Brown to get covered by liability insurance.
- c. Hawkins Spillway and Causeway Phase II Project Update: Engineers J. Matthew Bellisle and David Matheson contacted Chairman Mitchell to provide an update. NE Boring Contractors finished one hole yesterday at the elbow and got down about 29 feet; will now move over to eastern side of spillway to bore a second hole. There will be three borings in total. Chairman Mitchell received a bill today for over \$4,000 and will process and then formalize it at the next meeting.
- d. Establishment of Line Account for Hawkins Dam Project: Already discussed in the Treasure's Report.

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- e. Report on 2018 GLT Activities: Chairman Stephen Mitchell asked that this item be postponed until the next meeting. Roy Najecki made a motion to postpone the discussion on the 2018 GLT activities report until the April meeting; it was seconded by Janine Pitocco and passed unanimously.

### **Correspondence**

- a. Interlocal Trust Financial Audit Statement (2/25/19): Chairman Stephen Mitchell attempted to retrieve a copy of the audit from their website, but was denied permission.
- b. RIHPHC Conference April 6, 2019: Chairman Mitchell wanted to let the Board Members know of the statewide conference for the RI Historical Preservation.

**Trail Inspection and Volunteer Hour(s) Reports:** Nothing to report.

**Monthly GLT Activities/Reports:** Roy Najecki recently went to the RI Land and Water Conservation Summit. David Vallee, Hydrologist-in-Charge of the NOAA/National Weather Service/Northeast River Forecast Center gave the keynote address on Conservation, Meets Development: The Role of Land & Watershed Protection in Building Resilient Communities. Mr. Najecki believes the direction the Board has taken with the Hawkins Dam repair falls in line with what Mr. Vallee spoke about and why it is important to base repairs on a once in 500 year storm. Janine Pitocco asked who would be the Point of Contact for trail cleaning if she had volunteers. Chairman Mitchell indicated that she and David Piccirillo would be for the Hawkins property and Roy Najecki would be for Sprague.

**Open Forum:** No one present wished to speak.

**Executive Session:** There was no executive session held at the meeting this evening.

There being no further business before the Land Trust, Russell K. Gross made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. The motion was seconded by David Piccirillo and it passed unanimously.

**Minutes Approved: April 09, 2019 Meeting.**