

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2015

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on January 13, 2015 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 as bills were being approved), Russell K. Gross, Rebecca Schultz, Roy Najecki, Steven St. Pierre and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Jr.

Members Absent: George Charette, and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Sr.

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. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 09, 2014 meeting; it was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Roy Najecki did not have time to review the reports provided from the finance office on Friday because he was away. Chairman Stephen Mitchell was pleased with what he saw in his copy. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to table this until the February meeting; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills

- a. Rebecca Schultz made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$145 for the December 09, 2014 meeting minutes as well as the additional \$11.09 FICA charge to the town; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.
- b. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay John Bevilacqua's December 2014 bill for \$1,000; Russell K. Gross seconded and it passed unanimously.
- c. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay the Land and Water Conservation summit bill for \$270; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

- a. Safety Enhancement Grant Submission: Stephen Mitchell submitted the grant request for the amount of \$1,000 for safety equipment. Mr. Mitchell contacted two companies to get quotes for 3 complete safety outfits. Norfolk Power in Burrville, RI provided a quote of \$976.05 and George Kahler Sales in Rome, NY provided a quote of \$830.40. Russell K. Gross asked if after the grant is received, if the GLT can try to get a lower quote somewhere else. Chairman Stephen Mitchell didn't see why that would not be possible.
- b. Youth Leadership Meeting at PHS: Stephen Mitchell, Rebecca Schultz and Gene Cavaliere had a meeting yesterday (1/12/15) with the principal of Ponaganset High School and were given a tour of the school. Mrs. Schultz felt the principal was enthusiastic about the proposal, and she also spoke with him about a grant that she would like to try and get for some of the students. Gene Cavaliere like that the principal provided the trustees with several avenues to pursue with student groups at the school. Mr. Mitchell wants to be sure to tie this initiative in with the Foster Land Trust and students from the Foster/Glocester area that attend private schools outside of the district. There could be multiple groups of students this may appeal to, and Mr. Mitchell suggested putting an ad in the Bargain Buyer and inviting students to a GLT meeting if interested in the program and explain it in more detail. Russell K. gross also suggested that a couple of GLT trustees go to a Foster Land Trust meeting to discuss the initiative.
- c. Property, file room keys, and workroom: Steven St. Pierre spoke to Jeanne Fecteau about getting a space for the trustees to work in, and she was going to look into it further. Stephen Mitchell will follow up with her tomorrow to see where that stands. There were two sets of file room keys originally. Rebecca Schultz has one set, but the location of the

second set is a question. Former Chair Mark Karmozyn had a set, so the box of GLT property that he returned will have to be searched to see if they are in there. It is essential that all the trustees have the keys they need to get their work done.

d. Baseline property documentation update: Rebecca Schultz has started on this project with the Steere Hill documentation. There is a lot of filing that has to get done; she will need to go through and organize what the GLT has and then fill in the gaps. Mrs. Schultz is not quite comfortable with the geographical (GIS) mapping and would like some assistance with that aspect of the project. Gene Cavaliere will assist her with that. Roy Najecki spoke with a URI professor who indicated that next year at URI there will be a course offered in which students will work with local land trusts to help develop the baseline documentation for their properties. This is something the GLT would be very interested in participating in.

e. Status of architectural engineering work Steere Hill Parking: Stephen Mitchell provided an update on the work Caputo & Wick engineering employee David Brae has performed so far. Mr. Brae came to the property in November, and since then has sent out a few more engineers to get additional information from the Steere Hill site. A formal architectural design is in process and will hopefully be available for the February GLT meeting. Mr. Mitchell would like this project completed this spring.

f. Proposal for work timeline Recreational Trail Grant: The GLT has until March 30, 2016 to complete the work at Joe Sweet Road. Once Steere Hill parking area is done, this will be the next project. Stephen Mitchell believes this will be an excellent opportunity to involve the volunteers and make them part of the process.

New Business

a. Glocester Land Trust telephone number issue: Steven St. Pierre gave an update on the phone number on the GLT website. The former chair Mark Karmozyn had signed the GLT up for a google phone number, which he had put on the website as a point of contact. Unfortunately that number is no longer a valid point of contact because nobody on the board knows where the number goes to. Chairman Mitchell would like to remove the number from the website and just provide the Town Hall number instead; he will speak to Jeanne Fecteau, the Town Clerk, about this tomorrow. Russell K. Gross asked if it would be better to have the police department field the calls instead; that will have to be looked into further as well. Rebecca Schultz made a motion to allow Steven St. Pierre to remove the google phone number from the GLT website; Roy Najecki seconded and it passed unanimously.

b. Glocester Land Trust Post Office Box: Stephen Mitchell would like to get a Post Office Box at the Chepachet Post Office to handle the GLT mail. Currently the GLT receives its mail at the town hall and it is not handled in a timely fashion. Russell K. Gross made a motion to approve up to \$80 for Stephen Mitchell to spend on procuring a PO Box at the Chepachet Post Office for the GLT mail; Gene Cavaliere seconded and it passed unanimously.

c. Trail Inspection Policy: Steven St. Pierre began this process about a year ago and the board feels it is important to get this in place and ready to go for this spring. The Trust wants inspections done on each trail at least twice a year. Roy Najecki had provided an example of what the Appalachian Trail Club uses and Steven St. Pierre created a draft that he would like the trustees to review. Stephen Mitchell also suggested sending the draft to The Trust for review as well. The draft looked good to those present, so it will be brought to the February GLT meeting for adoption. As an amusing side note...at this point in the meeting Stephen Mitchell wanted to point out that Russell K. Gross was actually using his computer to view documents.

d. Workshop Agenda for January 27, 2015: Stephen Mitchell is proposing a two part agenda for the next workshop meeting. The first part will focus on finalizing the strategic plan and the action steps. The board is already addressing the three items on the short term goal list. Part two will be focused on Connie Manes coming to the meeting from Connecticut to give an hour long presentation on where the GLT currently is, and what needs to be accomplished to achieve accreditation. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept those two items as the agenda for the workshop on January 27, 2015; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.

Correspondence

a. Dr. Leslie Hyde – Colwell Farm: Legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Sr. spoke to Dr. Hyde about attending a GLT meeting, but due to conflicts he could not attend this evening and is not available on the date in February. Mr. Bevilacqua provide him with a packet of what would be required to work with the GLT on a property purchase, and also indicated to Dr. Hyde that the landowners would be responsible for a survey of the property. Dr. Hyde will speak with the landowners to see how they would like to proceed.

b. Connie Manes – Circuit Rider consultant for Land Trust Alliance: This was covered in item “d” under New Business above.

Monthly GLT Activities – Reports: No organized activities this month. Roy Najecki has been checking the re-routed trail at Steere Hill to see if people are using it. Most people appear to be, but he is still seeing people using the old trail by moving the brush placed in the way to block access to that old trail. Mr. Najecki moved the brush piles back into place to block the old trail again.

Open Forum No one present wished to speak at this time.

Executive Session: Chair Stephen Mitchell indicated that there was no need for an Executive Session this evening. Both items on the agenda can be addressed without going into executive session he believes.

- a. Acquisition of land and / or conservation easement: John J. Bevilacqua, Sr. prepared a release of all claims to end the negotiations with the Lavoie family with a 50/50 split of the deposit funds. Stephen Mitchell has a signed copy for the GLT records and a check for the reimbursement of half the deposit. Both Russell K. Gross and Mrs. Lavoie wanted things on the record in relation to this transaction:
Russell K. Gross: Mr. Gross and Roy Najecki are the only two trustee still on the GLT from when this transaction originally took place. Mr. Gross believes that the GLT trustees were deceived about this land acquisition from the very beginning by the former GLT Chair Bruce Payton. The trustees were lead to believe various facts about this purchase and none of them turned out to be true.
Rose Lavoie: Gloucester Land Trust I want you to know that I am paying back this money under protest. The Gloucester Land Trust made a proposition to me, which I accepted in good faith. Not a way to treat a long-term, respected citizen of Gloucester. Signed Rose Lavoie, January 12, 2015.

Mr. Mitchell did express his dismay at the way this had to be resolved, but the GLT did what they were required to do; he also wanted to thank Mr. Bevilacqua for his efforts on behalf of the GLT. This matter is now closed.

**Because of this case, the GLT now has strict purchasing guidelines in place that must be adhered to by all the GLT trustees.*

- b. Friends: Legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Sr. is handling and there is nothing to report on at this time.

There being no further business before the Land Trust, Steven St. Pierre made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Russell K. Gross and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT February 24, 2015 MEETING.