

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 13, 2015

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on October 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, Russell K. Gross, Steven St. Pierre, Gene Cavaliere, Roy Najecki and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Sr.

Members Absent: Member to be appointed by the Town Council and Rebecca Schultz

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: Michael Dahlquist

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Open Forum Agenda Items Only:** No one present wished to speak at this time.

**Approval of minutes of previous meetings**

- a. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2015 meeting; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously with Gene Cavaliere abstaining.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Roy Najecki presented the trustees with a preliminary year-end spreadsheet which also included a suggested 2016 budget. The FY2016 budget will be up for approval and discussion at next month's meeting. Gene Cavaliere made a motion to accept the budget report as presented; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously.

**Approval of Bills**

- a. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$145 for the September 8, 2015 meeting minutes as well as the additional \$11.09 FICA charge to the town; Russell K. Gross seconded and it passed unanimously.
- b. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay Rhode Island Land Trust Council Dues (\$300) and to amend the Contribution (from \$300 to \$100) for a total of \$400.00; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously with Roy Najecki abstaining from the vote due to the fact that he is a board member of the RI Land Trust Council.
- c. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay Land Trust Alliance Annual Dues for 2015-2016 invoice for \$575.00; Roy Najecki seconded and it passed unanimously.
- d. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay Caputo & Wick, Ltd., Civil Engineering and Surveying Services for Steere Hill Parking Lot invoice for \$2,034.00; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.
- e. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay BORI Graphics invoice of \$23.40 for Google telephone number stickers; Gene Cavaliere seconded and it passed unanimously.

Stephen Mitchell made a motion to go out of order and move the Executive Session to the top of the agenda to accommodate Mr. Dahlquist who has attended the meeting for that purpose only; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by Stephen Mitchell to convene to Executive Session; it was seconded by Roy Najecki and passed by all. Russell K. Gross made a motion to leave Executive Session, Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and it was passed by all.

**Executive Session Motions:**

## **Title 42 Section 42-46-5 (5) Purposes for which meeting may be closed to the public**

Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.

- a) Acquisition of land and/or conservation easement: None

## **Old Business**

- a. Steere Hill – Parking Lot: Stephen Mitchell spoke to the D.O.T. to inquire about a filing fee attached to the physical alteration application, and they are not going to charge the GLT a fee to file the application because they are a municipal group. The engineer completed filling out the paperwork and Chairman Mitchell brought all of the required paperwork (including town sign off and drainage information) to the D.O.T. himself this past week. Once the D.O.T. approves, then an RFP can be issued and the job can be put out to bid to be worked on in the spring of 2016.
- b. Joe Sweet Trailhead Grant: The D.E.M. asked for more information on the trees in question at the site and Roy Najecki measured their circumference and took pictures as well; none of them were larger than 5 inches in diameter. November 1st is when the bats should have moved on; still waiting to see if ok to cut trees after the 11/1 date. Once given the okay, a regulatory applicability application will need to be completed and a \$150 check will need to accompany it to move forward with the project. The grant requires a 20% match in which the board members time and labor can be counted toward that 20%.
- c. Approval of Sprague Farm Town Forest Management Plan Revision: Stephen Mitchell incorporated the few minor suggestions that John Bevilacqua had for the document and provided the updated version to the trustees to review. Roy Najecki had the book and page information on the various parts of the property and that was all added to Appendix “C”. Russell K. Gross was not in favor of keeping the dates for prohibiting mowing (April 15<sup>th</sup> –August 15<sup>th</sup>) because he believes it will allow invasive plants to take over the fields. If not mowed until after August 15<sup>th</sup>, it will be too task intensive to get the invasive plants under control. Russell K. Gross made a motion to remove the dates that prohibit mowing and alter the rule to let the board decide if mowing should take place as long as it has minimal impact to wildlife during the nesting and brood rearing portion of the year and on their habitat in general. Roy Najecki made a motion to adopt the document as amended; Russell K. Gross seconded and it passed unanimously. Stephen Mitchell will send this to Lisa Primiano at the D.E.M. for review and the GLT will formally adopt it at the next meeting in November.
- d. Distribution of Hunting Permits: The trustees were able to distribute multiple permits over a few days/nights and ended up adding two additional nights to accommodate the need. Approximately the same number of permits were distributed as last year.
- e. Location for Storage Shed/Building for GLT Equipment: This project is moving forward and Gary Trembl from the Gloucester Department of Public Works said that there is enough room for it at the town DPW property.
- f. Midfield Technologies: The entire website template was upgraded, but some of the components were not because that would have cost more. The upgrade allows the website to operate on various forms of technology. The items that were not upgraded were primarily forms, like the volunteer application; these will eventually need to be done as well. Steven St. Pierre will be doing a lot of the work for free, but he will find out what an estimated cost would be for everything to be upgraded and bring it back to the next meeting.

## **New Business**

- a. PayPal status: Steven St. Pierre has tried to access this account and can't; former Chair Karmozyn set up the account so people could donate online, but nobody on the board can access the funds. Mr. St. Pierre recommends that the account be closed and will look into how to proceed with PayPal to achieve that. John Bevilacqua also send a letter on behalf of the board to Mr. Karmozyn to ask him about the account and its password. Russell K. Gross made a motion to allow Mr. St. Pierre to contact PayPal on behalf of the GLT to find out how to close the account; Gene Cavaliere seconded and it passed unanimously.
- b. Access relocation to Steere Hill trails via Heritage Park during winter months: Heritage Park parking area gets plowed during the winter and provides access to Steere Hill. By getting people to park there for

the winter months, it will help preserve the new lot's integrity when completed. This will take effect in Fall 2016 – Winter 2017.

- c. New member of GLT representing Planning Board: Stephen Mitchell had hoped this was going to be disclosed at the last Town Council meeting, but it was not so it should be at the next Town Council meeting.
- d. Leash requirement for dogs while on GLT properties: RI State parks already have a policy in place requiring dogs to be leashed. Implementing this rule would fall under land management and would probably not need Town Council approval. The board would allow for both physical and electronic leashes. The Chair will put a rule together to present at the next meeting and then they will present it to the Town Council as a courtesy.
- e. Youth Leadership Council presentation to Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee on October 6, 2015: Rebecca Schultz, her daughter and Stephen Mitchell shared with the school committee that work that has been done. The committee was very impressed and suggested the group giving presentations at each of the elementary schools. The Council will also invite the Foster Land Trust to work with them on future endeavors.
- f. Adoption of Public Records Policy: The GLT follows the Town of Glocester's public record policy. Steven St. Pierre will post a copy of that to the GLT website.
- g. Work orders on GLT properties – priorities and assignments: Quite a few work orders were generated from the trail inspections at Sprague property and Roy Najecki has been working on them. One of the projects was to re-paint/mark the trails and that has now been completed.
- h. GLT Strategic Plan for 2015-2018 information on website: Steven St. Pierre put the document up on the website. Stephen Mitchell sent a copy to Rupert Friday of the RI Land Trust.
- i. Signage to alert visitors to presence of wild animals: Bears are moving around and a bobcat was spotted in town. The D.E.M. recommended signage to alert the public using the property. John Bevilacqua will come up with the wording for the signs.

### **Correspondence**

- a. Susan Marcus RI Wild Plant Society (9/30/15): Stephen Mitchell received a request from Ms. Marcus to hold a trail walk at Steere Hill. Permission was given.
- b. Elizabeth Lopes-Duguay –RI Div of Ag and Resource Marketing: Ms. Lopes-Duguay wanted to write and express her appreciation for the GLT allowing her to conduct an insect inventory on Steere Hill.
- c. RI Land Trust E-News: Rupert Friday sent this out recently.
- d. Michael Laferriere (09/25/15): Sent Mr. Mitchell a picture that he took of the old manure spreader on Steere Hill.

### **Trail Inspections**

- a. Sunday October 18th: Many Steven St. Pierre and a few volunteers will be conducting trail inspections from 8am-11am to get the trails inspected in time for the fall/winter months.

**Monthly GLT Activities – Reports**: Rebecca Schultz helped coordinate a Blood Moon event recently that Roy Najecki also attended; overall the event was very successful.

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

There being no further business before the Land Trust, Russell K. Gross made a motion to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. The motion was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT NOVEMBER 10, 2015 MEETING.