

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
WORKSHOP MEETING
September 27, 2016

A workshop for the Gloucester Land Trust took place on September 27, 2016 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, Gene Cavaliere, Rebecca Schultz, Steven St. Pierre, Janine Pitocco and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua.

Members Absent: Roy Najecki

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: None

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of minutes of previous meetings

a. Gene Cavaliere made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the September 14, 2016 meeting; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills

- a. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay John Bevilacqua's monthly legal services fee for September (9/14 and 9/27 meetings) for a total of \$2,000; Rebecca Schultz seconded and it passed unanimously.
- b. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$145 for the August 09, 2016 meeting minutes, one hour preparation for hyperlink agenda on 8/09/16 (\$28.00) for a total of \$173.00 as well as the additional \$13.23 FICA charge to the town. Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Stephen Mitchell met recently with Diane in the town Finance Office and the board will now receive quarterly statements on payments for Judi instead of the once a year reporting.
- c. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay Rock's Reliable Tree Service, LLC a total of \$2800.00 for the removal of eight trees and the clearing of the wood and brush around the garage at Hawkins Pond; Janine Pitocco seconded and it passed unanimously.
- d. Gene Cavaliere made a motion to pay Rock's Reliable Tree Service, LLC a total of \$350.00 for the removal of two additional trees at Hawkins Pond; Rebecca Schultz seconded and it passed unanimously. Chairman Mitchell was on site while the trees were being removed and noticed these two large dead pine trees should also come down, so he authorized their removal.
- e. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay Dubay's Tractor Center, LLC a total of \$369.96 for heavy duty hedge trimmers and two gasoline containers; Rebecca Schultz seconded and it passed unanimously. The original invoice was misplaced, so Chairman Mitchell is contacting Dubay's finance person tomorrow to ask them to send another invoice to the Town Finance Office.
- f. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay Balloons Over RI/BORI Graphix a total of \$409.92 for twelve 2'x3' hunting signs to be placed on GLT properties that did not already have them; Rebecca Schultz seconded and it passed unanimously. Stephen Mitchell was very grateful that the company put aside what they were doing for the board and created these signs in one day so they could be put up immediately.

New Business

a. Youth Protection and Adult Leadership Policy: Gene Cavaliere and Rebecca Schultz have been working on this policy and have a draft for the board to review. The policy will cover procedures for the Gloucester Land Trust in situations where they interact with youth, especially on GLT properties. This policy will protect the trustees, GLT volunteers and the young people they interact with. Attorney

Bevilacqua pointed out that the board would be creating a policy that they will be held accountable to, and the trustees need to determine how much supervisory responsibilities they wish to take on at these events. He recommended that the board limit their liability as much as possible. The first step in doing this will be to identify the types of events and programs the board wishes to participate in with youth, and if at all possible invite parents to attend with their children to help limit the liability of the board. Russell K. Gross suggested that maybe Attorney Bevilacqua could take a look at what has been drafted and then provide feedback before the board spends hours on creating a policy. Attorney Bevilacqua has no problem reviewing the document, but would like to hear from the trustees on how they feel about the different items. Chairman Mitchell believes this will be a multi-step process and the board should look at each part thoroughly; this will require several reviews before final adoption.

The trustees began reviewing the document and asked Rebecca Schultz to provide share with them the activities that occurred over the past year during the exploratory/trial phase of this program. Mrs. Schultz listed off approximately 14-15 activities that the youth council participated in: Ponagansett High School class presentations, a class on trail inspections followed by onsite trail inspections, native plant propagation, interviewing the Heditsian family, bookmarks for libraries, present programs at the libraries, two amphibian events, owl event, campfire during the blood moon, and end of year picnic that involved kayaking and paddle boarding. Mrs. Schultz loved interacting with the students, but it did take a lot of time and energy and is something that requires a lot of attention.

Conversations with the former and current principals were positive, and they were supportive of the idea, but Mrs. Schultz would like to see a stronger relationship with the school and possibly get a teacher involved with the program. Ideally, the board would like to be a resource and not the administrators of the program. The program needs to be sustainable even if trustees come and go; it is not a sustainable program as of right now, but if the school took the lead it could be. Rebecca Schultz reached out to the agricultural department and the environmental science teacher, but neither of them seem interested in taking on this role and incorporating it into their classroom. The presentation to the school board went well and they were supportive of the program; but again, nobody has indicated they wish to use it as a resource for their students.

Russell K. Gross believes the board should be a resource for the high school and for groups like the boy scouts, and not run a youth program separately. It was suggested that the trustees go to existing groups and let them know the Gloucester Land Trust is here for them as a resource. Attorney Bevilacqua suggested that the board send out an informational letter offering the board as a resource and let the interested parties contact the Chair. Steven St. Pierre thinks that even if that is the direction the board chooses to go in, a policy still needs to be drafted to protect the trustees when interacting with youth groups. Attorney Bevilacqua suggested that the trustees take time to read the drafted policy and really think about how they want to proceed. The trustees can then decide, as a board, at the next meeting what next steps should be taken. Chairman Mitchell thanked Rebecca Schultz and Gene Cavaliere for all their time and effort with the program and for creating the draft policy; he will place the topic on the agenda for the October meeting.

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 8:07p.m. The motion was seconded by Gene Cavaliere and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT OCTOBER 11, 2016 MEETING.