

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
REGULAR MEETING
October 11, 2016

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on October 11, 2016 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members in attendance: Stephen Mitchell, Russell K. Gross, Gene Cavaliere, Rebecca Schultz, Roy Najecki, Janine Pitocco and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua.

Members Absent: Steven St. Pierre

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: Mr. Evan Hallberg

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 September 27, 2016 meeting; it was seconded by Janine Pitocco and passed unanimously with Roy Najecki abstaining due to his absence at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Roy Najecki presented the trustees with a spreadsheet for expenses up to October 10, 2016. After several conversations with the Finance Office, Mr. Najecki was informed that the Steere Hill WHIP funds were never in a separate account. The funds were always in a restricted GLT account, but were recently moved to the unrestricted account. So, the funds were always included in the balance shown by the Finance Office. Mr. Najecki will get clarification on all GLT "ZZ" accounts and their contents and report back to the board at the November meeting. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the report as presented; Janine Pitocco seconded and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills

a. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$145 for the September 27, 2016 meeting minutes; Roy Najecki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

a. Joe Sweet Trailhead Grant Status: Roy Najecki provided the board with specs on the project so it can be put out to bid. Russell K. Gross pointed out that the rocks for the parking area do not need to be washed, and that the wording for the project description needed to be more definitive as to what will be done with the stumps and rocks that will need to be removed. After some discussion, the board decided that the stumps should be removed from the property completely and the rocks could be placed to the side of the parking area and out of the way. Russell k. Gross made a motion to approve the plan for the project and authorize Roy Najecki to take steps to move this forward; seconded by Janine Pitocco and it passed unanimously.

b. Abandonment of portion of Elbow Rock Road: Roy Najecki presented the board with the needed documentation that it owned property on both sides of the road where the issue is, now the topic can be brought to the Town Council since they are the only ones who can authorize this. Stephen Mitchell will send the council a letter recommending this change and request they put this on one of their agendas for consideration. It will be up to the Town Council to take the issue from there. Rebecca Schultz made a motion to authorize Stephen Mitchell to send the council a letter recommending that they abandon this portion of Elbow Rock Road and request they put this on one of their agendas for consideration; seconded by Gene Cavaliere and it passed unanimously.

c. Adoption of Hawkins Pond Management Plan: The board was presented a draft of the updated Hawkins Pond Management Plan. Janine Pitocco had a question on an item in the “Overview” section on page 3, in the third paragraph. It references a shell of the former stone mill, and Mrs. Pitocco was curious about how much of the building is actually left at this point. Stephen Mitchell and Russell K. Gross indicated that only a small portion of the stone mill’s original foundation is left as of today. Mrs. Pitocco would like to accurately reflect in this management plan what is actually still left of the building right now since the plan is being updated and adopted now. The board members agreed to that amendment. Roy Najecki made a motion to adopt the amended Hawkins Pond Management Plan; seconded by Russell K. Gross and it passed unanimously.

d. Update on Draft of Youth Policy: At the last meeting the board began to refine how they viewed the youth policy. They were asked to think about how they wanted to proceed and if they felt it would be more beneficial to the board to only be a resource for people in the community. A youth policy would only be necessary if the board was running their own youth programs. Trustees can still participate in activities, they just cannot be in charge of or run the event/activity. Chairman Mitchell asked each trustee individually for their thoughts on the matter. Overall the trustees feel that being a resource for the high school and groups like the Boy Scouts is the better option for the board going forward. Each one of the trustees indicated that as long as they were allowed to participate in the activities, they would be happy with that. All events that would happen on GLT property would still need to be brought before the board for approval. So, going forward, the GLT will offer itself as a resource only to any community groups that would like their assistance/expertise. Chairman Mitchell thanked Gene Cavaliere and Rebecca Schultz, once again, for all their hard work with this initiative.

Russell K. Gross made a motion to go out of order and move New Business item “B” to the top of the agenda to accommodate the only guest present, Mr. Evan Hallberg, an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 44; Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

b. Eagle Scout Proposal at Steere Hill Conservation Area-Evan Hallberg: Mr. Hallberg provided the trustees with a handout outlining his Eagle Scout Project. He would like to construct two benches to be placed at the location of the board’s choosing on Steere Hill. Mr. Hallberg will be looking for donations for the supplies and is planning on a November 5th installation date with a rain date for November 6th. Trustee St. Pierre will be there as a resource and to show Evan where to locate the benches. Chairman Mitchell will also try to attend as well. Janine Pitocco made a motion to approve Mr. Hallberg’s request and allow him to proceed with his project; Roy Najecki seconded and it passed unanimously.

a. GLT Volunteer Applications: Russell K. Gross made a motion to approve and accept the application of Vincent Langella as a Gloucester Land Trust volunteer; seconded by Rebecca Schultz and it passed unanimously.

c. Eagle Scout Proposal at Steere Hill Conservation Area-Cameron Leach: Mr. Leach was not ready for tonight’s meeting with his proposal, so it will be moved to the November meeting. Roy Najecki made a motion to table this item until the November meeting; seconded by Rebecca Schultz and it passed unanimously.

d. Storage Facility at Town Garage: Russell K. Gross will get some specs and information to bring back to the board at a future date. Mr. Gross believes that former GLT trustee George Charette will be willing to help the board on this project.

Correspondence

a. Deborah Sampson email: Ms. Sampson was recently out at Heritage Park on the trails and was upset at the amount of animal waste on the trails. Stephen Mitchell responded to her even though the town maintains those trails; Heritage Park is town property. Mr. Mitchell will follow up with Gary Trembl of the DPW on the matter.

- b. Diane Brennan / Finance Office: Stephen Mitchell recently met with Ms. Brennan regarding the Signe Phillips account and getting recording secretary quarterly finance report updates. Chairman Mitchell followed up with an email, as per her request, as to the suggested dates a report would be provided. (March 1, July 1, September 1, and December 1).
- c. Carol Trocki – Kwandran Property BDR: Kwandran property BDR report was not completed by the intern, so now Ms. Trocki will be completing it at the rate of pay that would have been provided if the intern had actually done the work. She will contact the board when she has something for them.
- d. Benjamin Schweinhart email: Mr. Schweinhart contacted the board to ask permission to work on a night time photography project on Sprague Farm. He was hoping to get pictures of fisher cats, and Chairman Mitchell asked him to share any of the pictures he is able to get, and notified the Gloucester Police that his car would be authorized in the parking area of Sprague Farm on the two nights requested.

Trail Inspections: Steven St. Pierre and Russell K. Gross had approximately ten reports submitted from September 1st when they were out on the Steere Hill property. Overall the trails were in very good condition and Mr. St. Pierre had made suggestions for bridges on a few of the trails. Roy Najecki and Gene Cavaliere will get working on the Sprague Farm trail inspections.

Monthly GLT Activities – Reports: Roy Najecki will be guiding a full moon walk at 7:30pm on Steere Hill this Saturday.

Open Forum: Roy Najecki wanted to discuss the meeting schedule for December, but Chairman Mitchell said it could wait until the November meeting, and he would put it on the agenda.

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 8:05p.m. The motion was seconded by Janine Pitocco and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT NOVEMBER 15, 2016 MEETING.