

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
REGULAR MEETING
November 15, 2016

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on November 15, 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, Steven St. Pierre, Rebecca Schultz, Roy Najecki, and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua.

Members Absent: Janine Pitocco and Gene Cavaliere

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: Mr. Cameron Leach and a Troop 44 leader, Mr. John Crompton, his sister and another woman (neither woman provided their name)

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of minutes of previous meetings

a. Roy Najecki made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 11, 2016 meeting; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously with Steven St. Pierre abstaining due to his absence at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Roy Najecki presented the trustees with a spreadsheet for expenses up to November 14, 2016. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the report as presented; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills

a. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$159 for the October 11, 2016 meeting minutes and hyperlinking; Roy Najecki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A second motion was made due to a recent \$5 increase in payments to the clerks of the town committees. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix the additional \$5 per meeting that was retroactive back to August 1, 2016, for a total of an additional \$20; seconded by Rebecca Shultz and it passed unanimously.

b. Rebecca Shultz made a motion to pay John Bevilacqua \$1,000 for October 2016 legal services; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Russell K. Gross made a motion to go out of order and move New Business item "A" and to the top of the agenda to accommodate Mr. Cameron Leach, Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 44; Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

a. Eagle Scout Proposal at Steere Hill Conservation Area-Cameron Leach: Mr. Leach provided the trustees with a handout outlining his Eagle Scout Project. He would like to construct trail signs, similar to the signage at Sprague Farm, to be placed at Steere Hill. Mr. Leach will be looking for donations for the supplies and is planning on an early spring installation date. Trustee St. Pierre will provide Cameron with a template for the signs so that the signage on GLT properties will remain uniform in appearance, and will also be there as a resource and to get them installed properly. The board will ensure that the tractor and auger attachment are available for Mr. Leach to use, but he will also need to bring a post hole digger. Chairman Mitchell asked that Cameron update them on the status of the project as the date of installation

gets closer. Russell K. Gross made a motion to approve Mr. Leach's request and allow him to proceed with his project; Rebecca Shultz seconded and it passed unanimously.

Russell K. Gross made a motion to go back into order on the agenda; Rebecca Shultz 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 and a project description so it can be put out to bid. Russell K. Gross asked if this could wait until the spring, or if it needed to be completed before then, and Roy Najecki indicated that it needed to be done by early fall of 2017. The board will place an ad in the Bargain Buyer and also post it at Town Hall in either January or February. Russell K. Gross made a motion to approve project description and allow the project to be put out to bid; seconded by Roy Najecki and it passed unanimously.

b. Use of remaining funds of Signe Phillips Property (\$11,403.44): Roy Najecki presented the board with a copy of an email from Diane Brennan of the Town Finance Office requesting a motion to change the original motion setting aside the Signe Phillips funds for use exclusively on that property. The GLT conducted a thorough search of all GLT minutes and determined that there is no restriction on any and all funds in the so-called Phillips- Sprague account at Citizens Bank. The board therefore requests that the Town Finance Director close the Phillips-Sprague account, in which approximately contains \$11,403, and transfer all funds to the so-called ZZ commercial checking account at Citizens Bank. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to authorize the Town Finance Director to make this financial transaction for the GLT, so the use of those funds for can be directed toward whatever the board would like; seconded by Russell K. Gross and it passed unanimously.

c. Letter of support for Scituate Reservoir Project: Stephen Mitchell received an email from Rupert Friday of the RI Land Trust regarding Rhode Island DEM submitting a proposal to the US Forest Service - Forest Legacy Program seeking competitive grant funding to purchase conservation easements from willing landowners in the Scituate Reservoir Watershed area. RIDEM needs letters of support for the proposal, and Mr. Friday was hoping the GLT could provide one. Chairman Mitchell would like to support this effort. Russell K. Gross made a motion to authorize Stephen Mitchell to submit a letter of support on behalf of the GLT for this initiative; seconded by Rebecca Shultz and it passed unanimously.

New Business

b. Recognition of Declan Beltram, Eagle Scout project: Roy Najecki made a motion to postpone this agenda item since Mr. Beltram is not present this evening; seconded by Rebecca Shultz and it passed unanimously.

c. Renewal of RI Land Trust Council 2016-2017 Dues (\$400.00): Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay \$400 for the annual RI Land Trust Council dues; seconded by Steven St. Pierre and it passed unanimously.

d. 2017 Land and Water Conservation summit and update (March 11, 2017): Stephen Mitchell received an email from Rupert Friday of the RI Land Trust regarding various events and providing important updates such as the date for the summit. Stephen Mitchell asked that as the date gets closer, the trustees notify him if they wish to attend since the board will pay the conference fee.

e. Request for permission to conduct walk at Steere Hill – November 25, 2016: Stephen Mitchell received an email from Roy Najecki asking for permission to conduct a walk at Steere Hill on the day after Thanksgiving. Russell K. Gross made a motion to allow the walk on November 25, 2016 at Steere Hill; seconded by Steven St. Pierre and it passed unanimously.

Correspondence

a. Chainsaw training: Roy Najecki sent Chairman Mitchell an email regarding chainsaw training he recently underwent. On Oct 29-30 he attended a chainsaw use and safety course presented by the

Appalachian Mountain Club. The AMC, which has a 100 person trail maintenance crew that works on trails from Maryland to Maine, gave the course. The local AMC chapter arranged the training for its trail subcommittee of which he is a member. In the coming year or two the AMC and U.S. Forest Service will be requiring training/certification for those using chainsaws on trail projects.

Trail Inspections: Over the past two weeks Roy Najecki walked/inspected all the Sprague Farm trails. Mr. Cavaliere did not accompany him because he was working. Mr. Najecki did not find any major problems or see anything needing immediate attention. All trail inspection reports have been submitted, and it is the first time in the history of the board that all blazed GLT trails have been inspected in both the spring and the fall.

Monthly GLT Activities – Reports: Roy Najecki investigated a possible encroachment issue at Seldom Seen Farm after a neighbor notified him of chainsaw and gunshot noises she was hearing. After further investigation, Mr. Najecki determined that it was on the adjacent property, and the landowner had set up a rifle range.

Open Forum: No one present wished to speak.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Russell K. Gross to convene to Executive Session; it was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and passed by all. Rebecca Schultz made a motion to leave Executive Session, Roy Najecki 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: No motions were made in executive session.

There being no further business before the Land Trust, Russell K. Gross made a motion to adjourn at 7:39p.m. The motion was seconded by Roy Najecki and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT DECEMBER 13, 2016 MEETING