

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 13, 2016

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on December 13, 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, Janine Pitocco, Gene Cavaliere and legal counsel Renée M. 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. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting; it was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and passed unanimously with Janine Pitocco and Gene Cavaliere abstaining due to their absence at that meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Roy Najecki was absent and did not provide a treasurer's report to the Chairman prior to the meeting. Stephen Mitchell will follow up with Mr. Najecki on why he did not submit one.

**Approval of Bills**

- a. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$164.00 for the November 15, 2016 meeting minutes and hyperlinking; Gene Cavaliere seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- b. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay John Bevilacqua \$1,000 for November 2016 legal services; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

- a. Update on Eagle Scout project at Steere Hill: Steven St. Pierre indicated that the benches are complete and on the main trail leading to the top of Steere Hill. Buster Steere of Steere Farm donated stone dust for the project. Mr. St. Pierre would like to suggest that the next scout project be something other than benches, possibly a picnic table. Stephen Mitchell would like to meet with the Troop leader to discuss these projects going forward and how much of each project needs to be fundraised for.
- b. Bronze plaque at Steere Hill honoring Steere and Heditsian families: As part of her role with the Youth Council, Rebecca Schultz and the students worked with the Heditsian family to compile an oral history of their family. Mrs. Shultz would like to honor both the Heditsian and Steere families with some type of formal recognition on the top of Steere Hill; she thought maybe a plaque would be nice, but wanted input from the other trustees. Janine Pitocco thinks it would be nice to have something substantial like an educational board, and offered to assist Mrs. Shultz in completing this task. Gene Cavaliere also recommended reaching out to the Historical Society and Edna Kent to see if they would like to participate in this project. Mrs. Shultz will continue with her research and bring more information back to the board at a future meeting.

## **New Business**

- a. Recognition of Declan Beltram, Eagle Scout project: Mr. Beltram was not present at the meeting this evening.
- b. Review of GLT Strategic Plan and consideration of updating key components: Stephen Mitchell provided a copy to the trustees. Short term goals that were set are either in progress or completed, while the long terms goals are either in progress are they have changed substantially. Chairman Mitchell feels the board has done very well in tackling these goals and would like to conduct another workshop to revisit and update them. The topic of setting a date for the workshop will be put on the January meeting agenda.
- c. Update to land discussions: Attorney Bevilacqua has not had any correspondence or contact with any of the landowners regarding property donations. Stephen Mitchell will put the property donations on next month's agenda so that Attorney Bevilacqua can take some action to allow for resolution to the matters.
- d. Tree harvesting on Land Trust properties: The GLT has over 2,200 acres of land, and it is very rare for the board to authorize tree harvesting. There are many ecological benefits to tree harvesting, and Stephen Mitchell would like to explore this in more detail as a possible revenue source to aid in improving/maintaining all of the land the GLT owns. Gene Cavaliere and Steven St. Pierre both think it could be a good idea, but Mr. St. Pierre does not want to see a logging company go in and make a mess of the area they harvest. Stephen Mitchell will reach out to Greg Cassidy of the D.E.M. and see if he would be available to attend a future meeting and explain the process in more detail.
- e. Potential crop planting on Land Trust properties: Russell K. Gross received a phone call from a person that was interested in planting cattle corn, and wondered if the Land Trust would consider leasing any of their land. Mr. Gross directed the person to contact the Chair, and once Mr. Mitchell has more information he will bring it to the board for discussion.

**Correspondence:** None

**Trail Inspections:** No trail inspections were completed. They are done until the spring.

**Monthly GLT Activities – Reports:** None of the trustees had anything to report.

**Open Forum:** Janine Pitocco asked Stephen Mitchell and Rebecca Shultz if they could walk the Hawkins property and take a look at the dam. Mr. Mitchell thought it was a possibility, if the weather continued to hold out after the holidays.

**Executive Session:** There was no executive session at this meeting.

There being no further business before the Land Trust, Steven St. Pierre made a motion to adjourn at 7:48p.m. The motion was seconded by Russell K. Gross and it passed unanimously.

**APPROVED AT JANUARY 10, 2017 MEETING.**