

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 24, 2016

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on May 24, 2016 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Members Absent:

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: Julian Forgue

### **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 April 12, 2016 meeting; it was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Roy Najecki presented a report to the trustees on the current budget and what has been spent to date. Steven St. Pierre asked for a breakdown of what items were paid for in the Property Maintenance line. Mr. Najecki found that he had deducted the cost of the Dahlquist BDR twice so he will revise the spreadsheet and send it to the trustees. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to accept the amended treasurer's report; Russell K. Gross seconded and it passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Bills**

- a. Rebecca Schultz made a motion to pay John Bevilacqua's legal services fee for April 2016 for a total of \$1,000; Gene Cavaliere seconded and it passed unanimously.
- b. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay recording clerk Judi Rix for the minutes of April 12 meeting \$145.00; hyperlink of February 9 minutes \$28.00; hyperlink of April 12 minutes \$28.00; for a total of \$201.00; Gene Cavaliere seconded and it passed unanimously.
- c. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay the invoice for Dubay's Tractor Center for a total of \$1418.05; Rebecca Schultz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. This was to pay for replacing some items stolen from Hawkins garage and also a couple of new items.
- d. Gene Cavaliere made a motion to make a donation to the RI Wild Plant Society for \$50.00 as a thank you for having speaker Paul Dolan at the GLT's Land Trust Days event; Roy Najecki seconded and it passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

- a. Steere Hill Management Revision: A copy was provided to the trustees prior to this meeting, and this plan has been discussed at length at prior meetings. The trustees have had plenty of time to review and should be ready to vote upon this at tonight's meeting. Two issues that the trustees would like to discuss further involves horses and bicycles. After some discussion, the trustees agreed to allow horses on Steere Hill except for mud season (Mid April – Mid May) and when the Land Trust deems it necessary to prohibit them. All the trustees felt comfortable with this arrangement. Attention then turned to the bicycle issue. Steven St. Pierre expressed concern about cyclists using Steere Hill due to the high number of pedestrians (elderly and children included), people walking dogs and horses using the trails. Mr. St. Pierre is concerned that there will be an accident and someone will be seriously hurt if cyclists are allowed to ride on the same trails and feels Sprague

Farm is a better place for them to ride. Russell K. Gross asked that it be on the record that he agrees with Mr. St. Pierre and it noted that he is not in favor of allowing cycling on Steere Hill. Mr. Najecki, Mr. Cavaliere and Mrs. Pitocco would like to allow bicycles until there becomes an issue that is brought to the board's attention.

Rebecca Shultz also wanted to add a portion of a document that Greg Cassidy of the D.E.M. wrote over ten years ago that references a part of Steere Hill as a wildlife habitat. Ms. Shultz wants to ensure that the wildlife habitat is maintained. Chairman Mitchell said that he could agree to add the first paragraph to the management plan, but he was opposed to adding the rest of it. This management plan is the second one put together by the sub-committee, of which Ms. Shultz is a member of, and the wording is the same as the first management plan put together. The topic of mowing the fields has been discussed repeated at previous meetings, and the chair thought that this topic had been vetted appropriately already and a resolution agreed upon by the board. Ms. Shultz did not recall those conversations and believes she may not have been present at those meetings. Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Gross and Mr. St. Pierre all stated that mowing of the fields is necessary to control the invasive plants, and Chairman Mitchell does not want to put restrictions on the person mowing the fields. Roy Najecki suggested including the first paragraph and referencing a mowing policy. The mowing policy can be decided at another time, and can be altered as needed without requiring the management plan be updated every time as well. Stephen Mitchell suggested approving the management plan with the exception of the mowing portion; this can be addressed at the next meeting. Roy Najecki made a motion to accept the Steere Hill management plan with the exception of the portion that involves the mowing of fields to be discussed at the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting; Gene Cavaliere seconded and it passed with 5 votes in favor (Mitchell, Najecki, Cavaliere, Shultz, Pitocco) and 2 opposed (St. Pierre and Gross). Janine Pitocco asked Mr. Gross and Mr. St. Pierre why they opposed the plan; both responded that they were strongly opposed to allowing bicycles on the property for fear of someone getting hurt.

b. Update on collaboration with URI Interns to Kwandran and Hawkins Properties: Stephen Mitchell heard from Carol Trocki on the status of these reports, and as of today only one of the grad students finished their projects. The student who worked on the Hawkins Property baseline documentation report for her final exam finished, while the other student did not complete the report on the Kwandran Property. Ms. Trocki is very pleased with the report submitted for the Hawkins Property, and the other student does want to complete his report if given the opportunity. Stephen Mitchell will work out the details with Ian to allow him to finish. Ms. Trocki stated that if the second student does not complete the report, she will finish it at no additional cost to the Land Trust other than what the student would have cost.

## **New Business**

Russell k. Gross made a motion to move agenda item "D" to the top to accommodate the guest present; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.

a. Request for horse riding event in September at Steere Hill Management Area: Julian Forgue came before the board tonight to ask for permission to hold a Bay State Trail Riders event on Steere Hill on September 25<sup>th</sup> at approximately 8:30am. The event would be a walk not a trot and would be hosted by Mr. Forgue and begin at his farm with a breakfast. If raining, the event will be rescheduled to another date TBD. The board asked Mr. Forgue to post signs at both the Steere Hill and Heritage parking areas informing people of the equine event that day and requesting that all dogs be leashed. Mr. Forgue agreed to this stipulation, and will also provide the board a copy of the club's insurance binder for the event. Roy Najecki made a motion to approve the Bay State Trail Riders event contingent upon the board receiving proof of insurance from the club; Russell K. Gross seconded and it passed unanimously.

b. Steere Hill Parking Lot Bid and next steps: Stephen Mitchell conducted a mandatory meeting for potential bidders on April 22<sup>nd</sup> that was attended by approximately 6 to 7 contractors. As of the submission deadline on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, only two bids were submitted that exceeded the budgeted amount put aside for the project by a significant amount. Chairman Mitchell believes these bids should be formally rejected, the board should take some time to reconsider its options and discuss further at the June meeting. Russell K.

Gross made a motion to formally reject the two bids submitted and allow the board time to reconsider their options; Janine Pitocco seconded and it passed unanimously.

c. Replacement of tires for tractor: Russell K. Gross gathered three bids for replacing the front tires of the tractor. (Current tires are 15 Years old and falling apart) This purchase amount did not require bids, but Mr. Gross got them anyway for the purpose of saving where he could. The DPW will mount the tires, so the replacement cost will only be for the items themselves.

d. Tree removal cost proposal at Hawkins Property: Janine Pitocco still needs to get bids for this project. Mrs. Pitocco made a motion to table this item until she has information to present to the board; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.

e. 2016 RI DEM Great Outdoor Pursuit June 11, 2016: The GLT was invited to participate in this year's event at Pulaski Park. It has been scaled back this year and the governor will be in attendance, so it was an honor to be asked to participate. Stephen Mitchell will help out with this and Steven St. Pierre suggested that maybe the youth leadership council may want to attend and showcase some of their work.

### **Correspondence**

a. Carol Trocki – Interns for Kwandran and Hawkins BDR: Stephen Mitchell addressed this above.

b. Arthur Dionne – Bird Nesting Boxes: Mr. Dionne provided the board with pictures, prices and specifications of the houses he builds. Any trustee on trail maintenance can look to see if they think they can be used on their property. Should consider getting some duck boxes for Hawkins Pond. They are of excellent quality for the price.

c. James Shaw – Fishing at Hawkins Pond: Stephen Mitchell received a note from Mr. Shaw recounting the days he used to fish at Hawkins Pond with his grandfather, and how he is looking forward to taking his grandson there now to fish.

d. Betty Mencucci – Walking Tour of Sprague Farm September 2016: Betty Mencucci asked for permission to give a walking tour of Sprague Farm in September. The board has given her permission to do this, and asks that Mrs. Mencucci provided the board with the date of the event when that is finalized.

e. Forest Legacy Meeting – Gregg Cassidy May 19, 2016: The D.E.M will be applying for a grant from the US Forest Service and would like the GLT to partner with them and attend an upcoming meeting.

**Trail Inspections:** Steven St. Pierre reported that half of the trails at Steere Hill are inspected and the rest should be completed by the end of the month. There is lots of work to be done. Roy Najecki reported about the same status as Steve and expects the trails at Sprague Farm will be done soon. Mr. Najecki indicated that there are about 20 trees that will need to be addressed. Mr. Najecki also noted that he saw truck and ATV tire marks on the trails.

**Monthly GLT Activities – Reports:** Nothing new to report on, but Roy Najecki would like to schedule some guided walks on July 16<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>. All Saturdays, and a day or two within a full moon.

**Open Forum:** Steven St. Pierre would like to put in an agenda request to get some nice pictures for the website, maybe even have a professional take some. Chairman Mitchell will put this on the next meeting's 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 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Janine Pitocco and it passed unanimously.

**APPROVED AT JUNE 14, 2016 MEETING.**