

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
REGULAR MEETING
January 10, 2017

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on January 10, 2017 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Steven St. Pierre (Chairman Mitchell wanted it on the record that Mr. St. Pierre notified him ahead of time of his absence due to a work conflict.)

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 December 13, 2016 meeting; it was seconded by Rebecca Schultz and passed unanimously with Roy Najecki abstaining due to his absence at that meeting.

Chairman Mitchell asked for a moment of silence at the meeting in honor of Rose Lavoie who passed away yesterday. Mrs. Lavoie was a distinguished member of the community, who was actively involved with many committees in town and interacted with the Land Trust on numerous occasions.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Roy Najecki provided a treasurer's report to the board to review with actual dollars spent up until January 9, 2017. The finance office is conducting their yearly audit, and did not provide the quarterly report on the costs of the recording clerk. They also did not close the Signe Phillips-Sprague account, in which approximately contains \$11,403, and transfer all funds to the so-called ZZ commercial checking account at Citizens Bank; this action was authorized by the board at the November 15, 2016 GLT meeting. Mr. Najecki also indicated that the yearly real estate tax funds should be transferred into the budget within the next month or so. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; it was seconded by Janine Pitocco and passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills

a. Gene Cavaliere made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$150.00 for the December 13, 2016 meeting minutes and hyperlinking; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay John Bevilacqua \$1,000 for December 2016 legal services; Rebecca Schultz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

a. Joe Sweet Trailhead Grant Status and process to commence work: Stephen Mitchell asked Roy Najecki to prepare the specs for the project so attorney Bevilacqua can review prior to the meeting next month, and be ready to present to the board, so the project can keep moving forward. Mr. Najecki will also double check with Greg Cassidy at the D.E.M. to see when the grant funds need to be spent by.

b. Update on donation of property to Land Trust: Attorney Bevilacqua was not present at the meeting, Attorney Arthur Read was in attendance on his behalf, so this item will need to be postponed. Roy Najecki made a motion to table this update until the February meeting; Russell K. Gross seconded and it passed unanimously.

New Business

a. Recognition of Declan Beltram and Cameron Leach, Eagle Scout project: Mr. Beltram and Mr. Leach were not present at the meeting this evening. Chairman Mitchell has been unsuccessful at reaching them, so this item will be postponed. Roy Najecki made a motion to table this until Chairman Mitchell is able to contact the scouts; Russell K. Gross seconded and it passed unanimously.

b. Set date for Strategic Planning Revision: Chairman Mitchell would like to conduct another workshop to revisit and update the board's strategic goals. Russell K. Gross made a motion to hold a workshop meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2017 at 7pm in the Town Hall; Gene Cavaliere seconded and it passed unanimously.

c. Renewal of RI Land Trust Council 2016-2017 Dues (\$400.00): This item had already been discussed and voted on back in October. It was on the agenda in error.

d. Tree harvesting on Land Trust properties: Stephen Mitchell had invited logger Peter Lesmerises of Connwood Foresters to attend the meeting, but due to the weather and Mr. Lesmerises having to travel a long distance to attend, Mr. Mitchell told him the item would be postponed to the February meeting. Mr. Lesmerises' name was provided to Chairman Mitchell by Greg Cassidy at the D.E.M. as a possible vendor for tree harvesting. Russell K. Gross made a motion to postpone this item until the February meeting; Gene Cavaliere seconded and it passed unanimously.

e. 2017 Hunting Regulations review: Chairman Mitchell wanted to review the current regulations and talk about possible changes that could then be brought before the board for a vote at a later meeting. Two possible changes/suggestions were: allowing crossbows on Sprague like it is allowed on Hawkins/Garrity; possibly allowing archery only on the Hopkins Woodland property. Rebecca Schultz wanted to express her concerns again regarding hunting on the Seldom Seen Farm property. Mrs. Schultz kept referring to a "gentleman's agreement" and signs on the property that indicated the original property owner did not want hunting on the property. The current management plan for that property does not state that hunting is prohibited. Stephen Mitchell ran into a neighbor of the Seldom Seen Farm, Mrs. Thompson, and asked her if she knew of any incidents/problems this past year when hunting was allowed, and she said she did not know of any. Mr. Mitchell also told Mrs. Thompson that each property is evaluated on a yearly basis to determine if hunting will be allowed, and that just because it was allowed this year, it would still be up for review for future years. As of today, there have been no reported problems regarding hunting on any of the GLT properties. The D.E.M. regulates hunting dates in the state, and it is much too early to get those for next year. All of the suggested changes and the dates/regulations will be brought before the board for a vote at a later meeting. This will give the trustees time to think about the suggestions that were made.

Correspondence:

a. Shane Burt (1/2/2017): Chairman Mitchell received an email from Mr. Burt inquiring about hunting on Sprague Farm with a .22 caliber rimfire. Mr. Mitchell informed him that such weapons are not allowed for hunting on the GLT properties.

b. Interlocal Trust (1/3/2017): Chairman Mitchell received copies of the GLT liability reports from 2016. The only claim the board has had for the Trust over the past few years involved the theft of older equipment at the Hawkins garage, and that claim did not exceed the deductible, so it did not get processed.

Trail Inspections: No official trail inspections were completed, but Roy Najecki noticed a tree down on Steere Hill when he was conducting the Thanksgiving walk. Mr. Najecki completed a report to notify the board so it could be taken care of.

Monthly GLT Activities – Reports: Chairman Mitchell received an electronic copy of the 2016 Annual Report from the recording clerk Judi Rix. Every year each town board/committee must complete one and submit it to the Town Council. Mr. Mitchell will also compile his own comprehensive report that details the accomplishments of the board over the past year to present to the Town Council. The new GLT liaison for the Town Council is Walter Steere III.

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

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 7:49p.m. The motion was seconded by Janine Pitocco and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT JANUARY 24, 2017 MEETING.