

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
WORKSHOP MEETING
May 30, 2017

The workshop meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on May 30, 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, Janine Pitocco, Steven St. Pierre, Roy Najecki and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Sr.

Members Absent: Gene Cavaliere and Rebecca Schultz

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 May 09, 2017 meeting; it was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills

a. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay The Bargain Buyer \$568.00 for advertising the Joe Sweet project for bidding purposes; Roy Najecki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$178.00 for the May 09, 2017 meeting minutes and hyperlinking of the agenda; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay John J. Bevilacqua \$2,000 for services for May 2017; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

d. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay 146 Supply Center \$294.11 for tractor parts and hydraulic fluids that the highway department needed to repair the GLT tractor; Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chairman Mitchell thanked them for repairing it and encouraged Gary of the department to use the tractor occasionally so it doesn't sit for extended periods of time; that is not good for the life of the tractor.

New Business

a. Sprague Farm Revision Approval: Chairman Mitchell received an updated management plan from Gregg Cassidy of the D.E.M. with a few suggestions/modifications to improve it; overall he thought it was an excellent plan. (Section 3.0 under property use: added the other times to the sentence, section 6.5.3 under field maintenance: added that control burns should be at a minimum of every five years, section 9.1 under plant species he added two paragraphs on the items he provided separate documentation on.) Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the amended Sprague Farm Management Plan; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Attorney Bevilacqua suggested adding the two documents that provided information about the items, Mr. Cassidy referenced in the plan, as appendixes. Chairman Mitchell will add an asterisk to 9.1 and reference the documents.

b. Vernal Pool Tour Request: Chairman Mitchell received an email from Mike Cavaliere offering to lead another vernal pool walk as a GLT event that will be open to the public. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to accept Mr. Cavaliere's offer to lead another vernal pool tour to be held on a Saturday in June; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Tree Harvesting Project: The board is trying to determine if they to harvest trees on GLT property. Russell K. Gross doesn't think it would be worth doing and believes the forest is thinning itself just fine; not to mention the public would not be happy with the mess it would make. All the other trustees expressed the same opinion about staying away from the properties the public uses heavily. Chairman Mitchell restated that the trustees are stewards of the land for future generations, and responsible for maintaining a healthy forest. The harvesting would be done for that purpose since there would not be much, if any revenue gained from doing this. Attorney Bevilacqua asked the board to consider the residual problems that will be part of a project like this; it will probably cost the board a good amount of money to take this on.

Roy Najecki suggested hiring a professional forester to look at the properties, identify what is on them, and inform the board what they can/cannot do with each property. Russell K. Gross expressed his concern about spending money on a professional forester, only to end up taking no action. Mr. Najecki does not share that view and believes it would be money well spent to know what is out there and what could be done in the future. Janine Pitocco expressed her concern for the loggers having oversight and only doing work that is asked of them. Steven St. Pierre doesn't feel it will be worth the time and money that would be required of the board to take this on right now. The trustees are also unable to identify a property that would be suitable for a harvesting project. Chairman Mitchell said the first objective that needed to be determined, before anything else, was if the board wished to move forward with this project. Overall, the trustees don't believe the benefits outweigh the costs. So, consensus is to not move forward with a harvesting project at this time.

Correspondence:

a. Lisa Primiano – Joe Sweet Grant Project 5/09/17: Sent an email to Chairman Mitchell informing him that the current grant is now cancelled. The GLT will need to re-apply to the Trails Committee in early August to submit a new grant request. Its approval is not guaranteed. Mr. Mitchell responded that per the advice of Attorney Bevilacqua, the submitted bids were not opened and that the project is temporarily suspended. The board will keep the bids sealed until after the awarding of the next round of grants, and then will decide on how to proceed with the project.

b. Cam Leach – Eagle Scout Project 5/14/17: Vice-Chairman Steven St. Pierre received an email from Cam Leach regarding his Eagle Scout project. The board said they would approve covering the costs of the remaining materials to finish the signs for his spring project. They requested a final list of the materials needed, and he provided that in the email along with a cost estimate of \$150.00. Steven St. Pierre reached out to Mr. Leach, but has not heard back from him as of today.

Stephen Mitchell wanted to let the trustees know about a few items coming up on the June agenda. In the open session portion of the meeting, the board will discuss the conflict of interest form most of them recently signed. In the executive session of the meeting a personnel issue, regarding the need for an attorney at all of the meetings, will be discussed as requested by a member of the board. Russell K. Gross wanted to request again that the rabid raccoon issue be put on the agenda as well since he believes it is becoming a bigger issue. Attorney Bevilacqua stated that the raccoon issue is a safety issue and the trustees can act without a board vote to ensure the safety of the public, and address the actions later. Chairman Mitchell authorized Mr. Gross to have warning signs made and posted on Steere Hill and Sprague Farm warning anyone using the trails of the danger.

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 8:10p.m. The motion was seconded by Janine Pitocco and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT JUNE 13, 2017 MEETING.