

## Approved Minutes

### GLOCESTER LAND TRUST REGULAR MEETING August 14, 2018

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on August 14, 2018 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Members in attendance: Stephen Mitchell, Steven St. Pierre, Russell K. Gross, Roy Najecki, Janine Pitocco, Gene Cavaliere, and David Piccirillo.

Members Absent: Legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Sr.

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: Chase Leach and his father, Engineer J. Matthew Bellisle and Engineer David Matheson of Pare Corporation; Gloucester resident Mr. Julian Forgue.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Open Forum Agenda Items Only:** No one present wished to speak.

Open Forum was moved to the top of the agenda to accommodate Chase Leach and his father, who came to the meeting to discuss possible projects Chase could complete for his Eagle Scout badge.

**Open Forum:** Chase Leach came to the meeting to discuss possible projects he could complete for his Eagle Scout badge. The Board has several projects they think will be of interest to Mr. Leach and will be happy to assist him. The Board will send him a list of possible projects to choose from, then he can come back to a future meeting with a decision, and they can move forward from there. Since the project will not be undertaken this fall, they have plenty of time to get this accomplished.

Russell K. Gross made a motion to go back into the regular order of the agenda; Gene Cavaliere seconded and it was approved unanimously.

#### **Approval of minutes of previous meetings**

a.. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2018 meeting; it was seconded by David Piccirillo and passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Roy Najecki provided an updated treasurer's report which reflected almost the entire fiscal year of 2017-2018; the only item missing was the FICO charge for recording clerk Judi Rix. Steven St. Pierre asked again about the ZZ account funds and what they can be used for. Chairman Mitchell will speak with Attorney Bevilacqua about that, and see if the funds can be used toward a project like the dam repair. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously.

#### **Approval of Bills:**

a. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay the Interlocal Trust Annual Premium of \$3731.00; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay Northern Landscape \$1,450 for trimming causeway and lawns; Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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- c. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to approve the amount of \$11,016.00 for the new Apple iPad Computers for the trustees and recording clerk; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- d. b. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay Balloons over RI/BORI Graphix \$238.80 for ‘No Motor Vehicles’ signs posted at GLT property entrances that are not gated; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## Old Business

- a. Report on 7/31/2018 workshop session to Hawkins and Clarkville School sites: The Board did not have a quorum for the meeting on Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 5pm at the Hawkins property garage to inspect both the dam and the schoolhouse. Chairman Stephen Mitchell will reschedule this site visit.
- b. Update to Joe Sweet Parking Area: Roy Najecki met with Mr. Karl Russo at the location, where Mr. Russo dug a few test holes to see what the current ground there is like. Chairman Mitchell wondered if the existing RFP could be used, and Mr. Najecki believes that would be acceptable. This will be brought back in September so the board can officially put the job out to bid; Mr. Russo will be encouraged to apply.
- c. Status of signs on GLT properties: Vice-Chairman Steven St. Pierre was creating a drawing to provide to Gary Treml of the DPW to see if they could accomplish the job. The board would purchase the materials needed, and if the DPW can do the job, this project can move forward.
- d. Bay State Trail Riders’ Association – Bridge proposal update: Chairman Stephen Mitchell received an email from Becky Kalagher of the association with additional pricing quotes that came from her meeting with engineers from the Pare Corporation. The quotes were quite expensive, and Ms. Kalagher believes the only way this is going to happen, would be with some type of grant. Mr. Mitchell would like the association to meet and discuss their options prior to coming back before the board to present again.
- e. Colwell Property – memorandum of intent to not move forward with grant: Chairman Stephen Mitchell sent an email to Michelle Sheehan at the D.E.M. regarding the GLT not accepting the Open Space grant to purchase the Colwell property.

## New Business

- a. 2018-2019 budget preparation: Treasurer Roy Najecki will work with Chairman Mitchell and Vice-Chairman St. Pierre on the budget and will bring it back to the board in September for approval. Mr. Mitchell asked the Trustees to email any questions or suggestions about the budget in advance to the three members working on it.
- b. Report on Proposal prepared by Pare Corporation to address issues in 2016 Hawkins Dam Inspection Report: The dam subcommittee met with J. Matthew Bellisle and David Matheson, engineers, of Pare Corporation to discuss details on how to address the deficiencies of the Hawkins Dam located in West Gloucester. Pare Corporation prepared a proposal for the Board to consider, and begin the process of addressing those deficiencies outlined in the 2016 Inspection Report. Mr. Bellisle and Mr. Matheson came to the meeting to present their findings to the Board.

Mr. Bellisle and Mr. Matheson began their presentation with a rendering of the dam as it currently exists, and then began to outline the various issues that need to be addressed. Significant issues like: the stumps on the downstream side that will eventually rot and cause seepage, the bulging upstream wall, slopes that need to be stabilized for an extreme weather event, appearance of wet/soft areas beyond the toe, and the spillway is degrading. Installing a toe drain on the right side, similar to the one on the left side, removing the stumps and filling those holes with the appropriate mix of silt and

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materials, reconstruct the embankment and repair the spillway are just a few ways to address and fix the issues.

Mr. Matheson indicated they would do a dam break analysis, a stability analysis and bore three holes in the dam to determine the best way to proceed with repairs. They need to determine how much water is actually being held in the pond, and size the spillway to determine what is needed to meet/exceed the regulations for a high hazard dam. Mr. Bellisle believes this will always be classified as a high hazard dam because of the possibility of loss of life if it were to let go; it is too close to Route 44. They do not want to design a spillway that will need to be taken out/upgraded in a couple of years. They will provide a design basis memorandum and walk through it with the Board, offering options at each stage. After that they would work on the design, help find a licensed contractor, and oversee that contractor to ensure the design they created is followed exactly. Mr. Matheson indicated it would be very helpful if the Board could provide him with a copy of any documentation related to the work done at the dam in 2012. Steven St. Pierre will provide him with that documentation.

Stephen Mitchell asked about the implications that dam removal would have, and would like Mr. Bellisle and Mr. Matheson to look at that too. Mr. Mitchell is not even sure if dam removal would be an option, and will have to look into that, but he would like to have every option available to the Board to make a decision on how to proceed. Any decision the Board makes will have to be presented to the Town Council for their input/approval. The President of the Town Council was invited to the meeting this evening, but was not in attendance. Mr. Bellisle indicated that dam removal comes with its own considerations, like impact on local wells, the wildlife habitats in the area, and would floodwalls need to be built downstream. Member Pitocco asked if there was any way to reduce the size of the dam to achieve a lower dam classification that would not be subject to such strict regulations. Mr. Bellisle did not believe that this particular property would be able to get that low a classification due to the proximity of Route 44. The Board Members will review the report once again and discuss it in further detail at a September workshop meeting. Chairman Mitchell and the Board Members thanked Mr. Bellisle and Mr. Matheson for such a comprehensive presentation, and they look forward to receiving the additional information they requested.

- c. 2018-2019 Hunting Regulations: Chairman Stephen Mitchell and Vice-Chairman Steven St. Pierre will prepare an updated regulations document to bring before the Board for the September meeting.

## Correspondence

- a. Canada Banding Warbler Project (8/1/2018 Update): Nicholas Russo sent an email to Chairman Stephen Mitchell to thank the Board for permitting him to use the Sprague Farm property to sample Canada Warblers for the Bird Genoscape Project. Mr. Russo attached the data for the four birds he captured on June 29<sup>th</sup>. There were still more birds that he never captured, which means the property is a rich habitat for this threatened species.
- b. URI Trail Camera Survey (7/16/18 Update): Amy Mayer a research associate at URI, who is involved in a collaborative project with DEM to map the distribution of bobcats in Rhode Island. Chairman Mitchell granted her permission without conditions, and asked her to share the findings of her study once it is completed and documentation completed. Ms. Mayer is currently working on a survey.
- c. Paul Guglielmino, DEM, regarding Hawkins Dam (6/29/18 Update): Chairman Mitchell emailed Mr. Guglielmino to keep him informed as to the steps the Board is taking to address the deficiencies outlined in the 2016 Inspection Report.

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**Trail Inspection Reports:** None.

**Monthly GLT Activities / Reports:** Roy Najecki is still has two of the five summer-autumn Walk in the Woods series events: Sept 1 at Sprague Farm (rain date Sept 8), and October 13 at Steere Hill (no rain date). Both are Saturdays at 10 AM with each walk lasting approximately 2 hours.

**Open Forum:** Mr. Julian Forgue wanted to let the Board know that the Bay State Trail Riders' Association was planning another ride for September. Chairman Mitchell told Mr. Forgue that the group should contact the Board to provide more details before conducting their ride.

**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 9:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 MEETING.