

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 12, 2018

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on June 12, 2018 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Members Absent:

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: None

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of minutes of previous meetings**

a.. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 22, 2018 meeting; it was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and passed unanimously with Janine Pitocco abstaining due to her absence at that meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Roy Najecki provided an updated treasurer's report which reflected all current expenses and deposits. There was nothing significant to report on, with the only changes being the \$1177.00 in bills approved last month. The fiscal year is ending this month, and the Board will need to set a budget for next year. 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. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$164.00 for the May 22, 2018 meeting minutes and hyperlinking of agenda and \$164.00 for the June 12, 2018 meeting minutes and hyperlinking of agenda upon receipt of those draft minutes, for a total of \$328.00; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chairman Mitchell is submitting the June invoice to ensure all fiscal year 2017-2018 expenses hit that budget and do not go into the next fiscal year.

b. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay John Bevilacqua \$1,000 for Legal Services for May 2018 and \$1,000 for Legal Services for June 2018, for a total of \$2,000; Gene Cavaliere seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chairman Mitchell is submitting the June invoice to ensure all fiscal year 2017-2018 expenses hit that budget and do not go into the next fiscal year.

c. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay Data Frontiers \$576.00 for the annual Microsoft 365 Subscription; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chairman Stephen Mitchell wanted to point out that the vendor has held the line on the cost of this for the Board, and has charged the same fee for several years.

**Old Business**

a. Signs on GLT properties: Chairman Stephen Mitchell and Jim Gervasio of Gervasio Construction Company are going tomorrow to see the signs at the town garage and determine what supplies are needed to put the signs up. Three signs will be put up for now on the Hawkins Pond, Sprague Farm and Phillips Farm properties; Mr. Gervasio will give the Board an estimate of the cost.

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b. IPads purchase costs for replacements of laptops: Stephen Mitchell contacted the Town's IT person, Matt Floor to research what the cost would be with a government discount by using the state bid list. A spreadsheet with several options was provided to the trustees that listed what the item was and what the cost would be. Stephen Mitchell and Steven St. Pierre did some research on each of the options listed on the spreadsheet and believe the IPAD Pro 12" tablet with keyboard is the best value for the money spent. The total cost is within what the Board has budgeted for this expense. Rob Bonnell of Data Frontiers will take all of the current laptops and clear their data, so the Board can keep them in the GLT office at Town Hall to have as a backup if necessary. Roy Najecki asked if everyone had to make the switch because he is not having any issues with his laptop; Chairman Mitchell indicated he would like to have everyone using a tablet instead. Janine Pitocco made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the IPAD Pro 12" tablets with keyboards; Gene Cavaliere seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Russell K. Gross then made a motion to authorize Chairman Mitchell to spend up to \$12,000 on the replacement technology for the Board; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

a. Hawkins Dam discussion of recent inspection and plans for future: The engineer from the Pare Corporation was not available to attend tonight's meeting. He would be happy to meet with the trustees at the dam and discuss the most recent inspection at another time. The GLT has established a subcommittee to focus on this project, consisting of Chairman Stephen Mitchell, Vice-Chairman Steven St. Pierre and Member David Piccirillo. Vice-Chairman St. Pierre will contact the gentleman tomorrow and try to set up a meeting with the subcommittee members.

b. Sprague trail beaver involvement: The beavers have blocked the culverts and created a knee-high beaver dam, which is about 50 feet long, which has caused the trail to flood to about 6 inches deep and blocking access to most of the Sprague Farm trails. Roy Najecki attempted to fix the problem, but the beavers just rebuilt what he had taken apart. Mr. Najecki did have a suggestion for another solution, which was devised by Clemson University, and it involves steel piping and fencing. The Foster and Cumberland Land Trusts have had success with these devices. DEM also uses one at the Pulaski Wildlife Marsh in G. Washington Management Area. Mr. Najecki believes he and Gene Cavaliere could build a similar device. Chairman Mitchell asked him what the cost might be for the project, and Mr. Najecki estimated that it could be completed for about \$300.00. Russell K. Gross made a motion to authorize Roy Najecki to move forward with building the device and spending up to \$500 to complete the project; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Alternate revenue sources generated on Land Trust properties: Roy Najecki recently read a Nature Conservancy magazine article that made him question if the GLT would be able to earn carbon sequestration income from their forests. Mr. Najecki provided the two articles he found online to the Board members for review. To summarize: a forester comes out to the property and evaluates the land. If the property meets the requirements, and the landowner wishes to participate, then a contract is signed for a certain number of years. Attorney Bevilacqua pointed out that the Board would be encumbering the property. Stephen Mitchell would like more information before considering this seriously. Roy Najecki thinks it would be great to get paid for what the Board is already doing; Mr. Najecki will do more research on it and bring that back to the Board for discussion.

d. Annual Inspection of Dahlquist Easement: Chairman Stephen Mitchell contacted Mr. Dahlquist to arrange a day and time to inspect the easement. Chairman Mitchell and Russell K. Gross are going to the property on Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> to conduct the inspection.

e. No Motor Vehicle Signs at entrances of ungated Land Trust Properties: Roy Najecki proposed 'No Motor Vehicles' signs be posted at GLT property entrances that are not gated. His recommendation was for signs (12" x 18") reading: No ATV's, dirt bikes, 4-wheelers, or motor vehicles beyond this point.

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Violators will be prosecuted. Gloucester Land Trust, owner. After discussing, the Board agreed upon purchasing approximately twenty 12"x18" signs that said "No motorized vehicles allowed". Russell K. Gross made a motion to authorize Steven St. Pierre to purchase the necessary signs and expend up to \$500; Roy Najecki seconded and it passed unanimously.

f. Workshop date to inspect Hawkins and Clarkville School properties: The Board will meet on Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the Hawkins property garage to inspect both the dam and the schoolhouse. The schoolhouse is actually located on the Kwandran Property, which is up the road from the Hawkins property on Rte. 44. Chairman Mitchell does not feel either Attorney Bevilacqua, or Recording Clerk Judi Rix need to attend this workshop unless they would like to. The recording clerk will make sure an agenda is posted for this workshop meeting.

g. Cancellation of July 2018 regular meeting date: The GLT regular meetings for July are cancelled due to the trustees taking vacations; this makes having a quorum difficult. Russell K. Gross made a motion to cancel the July 2018 regular meetings; Steven St. Pierre seconded and it passed unanimously.

### **Correspondence**

a. Eagle Scout project(s) (5/23/18): Chase Leach, younger brother of Cameron Leach, reached out to the Board about a possible project for him to complete as part of his Eagle Scout badge requirement. Roy Najecki came up with a few possible projects for Mr. Leach to work on, and that information will be provided to him.

b. Steere Hill and Sprague Farm Port-a-John availability (5/24/18): Roy Najecki emailed the owner of the port-a-john company to request that the porta-john be returned to the top of Steere Hill for the season, and put in the usual spot under the pine tree. Mr. Najecki also requested a porta-john to be returned to Sprague Farm, and directed the owner to send all bills to the Gloucester Land Trust Post Office box. They were not on the property yet, but there were a few trees in the way of getting the one to the top of Steere Hill; Steven St. Pierre and Russell K. Gross will take care of those trees this week.

c. URI Trail Camera Survey (6/1/18): 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.

d. GLT Website (5/22/18): Steven St. Pierre asked the Board members to review the content on the new website, and also added pages for Hopkins Woodland and Steere-Comber. Roy Najecki was able to provide some history on these properties and also more information on the Kwandran Property.

e. Carbon sequestration income (6/5/18): This was discussed above, under New Business, Item "C" and Roy Najecki will be providing more information on this at a future meeting.

f. Kevin Nerney use of trails for organization event (6/6/18): Was asking if a GLT member wanted to escort a hiking event he was organizing. Chairman Mitchell advised him that the Land Trust does not accompany organizations who wish to access their properties, and that he and his group should feel free to enjoy the trails.

**Trail Inspection and Volunteer Hour(s) Reports:** Roy Najecki indicated that he needed to make three repairs on two trails at Sprague Farm. Each repair would require a layer of 2 inch crushed stone, then a sheet of landscaping fabric, topped by a layer of gravel.

**Monthly GLT Activities / Reports:** Roy Najecki is planning the following for the summer-autumn Walk in the Woods series. He is willing to lead walks on: June 23 at Steere Hill (rain date June 30), July 14 at Sprague Farm (rain date July 28), August 11 at Steere Hill (no rain date), Sept 1 at Sprague Farm (rain date Sept 8), and October 13 at Steere Hill (no rain date). All are Saturdays at 10 AM with each walk

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lasting approximately 2 hours. Chairman Mitchell thinks these are great and thanked Mr. Najecki for doing them.

**Open Forum:** Steven St. Pierre received a call from a Mr. Dionne of the Burriville Land trust asking about the possibility of holding a press conference on a Gloucester Land Trust property to address the proposed new power plant in Burriville. This would not be possible, since none of the properties have electricity, which would be needed. Also, Chairman Mitchell is not interested in the Board getting involved with making political statements. The next meeting will be on August 14<sup>th</sup>, after a short summer break by the trustees.

**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 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and it passed unanimously.

**APPROVED AT AUGUST 14, 2018 MEETING.**