

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 22, 2014

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on January 22, 2014 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Mark Karmozyn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members in attendance: Russell K. Gross, Mark Karmozyn, Steven St. Pierre, Roy Najecki, George Charette and Stephen Mitchell and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Jr.

Members Absent: Debra Najecki

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. Roy Najecki made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 30, 2013 meeting; it was seconded by Steven St. Pierre and passed unanimously.
- b. Stephen Mitchell made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the January 08, 2014 meeting; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously.

**Approval of Bills**

- a. Stephen Mitchell made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$145 for the January 08, 2014 meeting minutes; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- b. None of the trustees had an invoice for registering for the RI Land & Water Conservation Summit.

**Old Business**

- a. Property maintenance:
  1. Steere Hill & Sprague Maps: Roy Najecki provided updated maps to the board; the board already approved purchasing another map box and would like to put a sign on them asking people to return the maps when they are done. Both of the updated maps will be enlarged and posted at their respective location.
  2. One trail inspection report was received, a work order was created and the issue has been resolved. Process is working well.
- b. Equipment Maintenance:
  1. Tractor Service and Repair: Russell K. Gross will check on the tractor to see if it is running now. It wouldn't run before because it was cold. Mr. Gross would like the trustees to perform the routine service on the tractor so it is done correctly and to keep a log of repairs.
  2. Equipment Service and Repair: George Charette asked when the last time the equipment was checked to see if it was working. Roy Najecki said that he used all of the gas-powered equipment this past year. A dealer has never officially assessed the current state of any of the equipment.

- c. Circuit Rider Policies: Great progress has been made and the Gloucester Land Trust will be the first quasi-government land trust to seek accreditation. It appears that the consultant from Land Trust Alliance, Connie Manes may be helping the board for another year. There are 12 policies before the board for approval tonight and they have already been looked over by Connie and the GLT's legal counsel Mr. Bevilacqua. Once approved by the board, they will be provided to the Town Council. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept all of the 12 policies as written and presented for review; Stephen Mitchell seconded and it passed unanimously.
- d. GLT Files: Steven St. Pierre has ordered two file cabinets and the filing supplies to go along with them with the help of Jane Steere in the Finance office. Mr. St. Pierre is waiting to hear that they have come in.
- e. Property Inspections: This topic came up at the last meeting with Connie Manes. The GLT will need to have at least 2-3 years of property inspection reports to get accreditation. Encroachment issues need to be documented and the board needs to have an encroachment policy in place. Roy Najecki has a property inspection report from one year, and the trustees will have to compile a comprehensive property inspection report for all of the GLT properties in the spring.

### **New Business**

- a. GLT Membership: Steven St. Pierre has come up with some ideas for membership based on what other land trusts do. People may not want to volunteer, but they may like to donate to the board. Mr. St. Pierre prepared a draft form for donations for the trustees to look at. The board can think about how they would like to proceed and it can be discussed at a future meeting.
- b. 2014 RI Greenways Alliance grant: Mark Karmozyn would like to apply for this grant to purchase a sign for Steere Hill. Deadline to apply is February 1<sup>st</sup> and the decision date is February 15<sup>th</sup>, so Mark Karmozyn and Stephen Mitchell will write up the request.
- c. RI DEM Trail Grant: This grant has a deadline of the third week of February and up to \$3,000 can be awarded. The board would like to submit an application for this as well and would like to apply it to getting gates and for gravel to fill culverts. All applications must be accompanied by estimates for the cost of each project. If the current easement on a property prohibits adding fill, Lisa Primiano of the D.E.M. told Mark Karmozyn that ancient easements can be modified if it is for the safety of the general public.
- d. GLT Annual Report: Mark Karmozyn received a letter from Jean Fecteau of the Town Clerk's office asking for an annual report. A template was provided and Judi Rix will fill it out and submit. Mr. Karmozyn would like an actual annual report as well. The board has accomplished a lot this year and would like to showcase it.

### **Correspondence**

1. The board received a few emails from Rupert Friday thanking them for their annual donation and asking each land trust to submit their two greatest achievements this past year so he can highlight them in his PowerPoint presentation at the Land and Water Summit. Russell K. Gross believes that the GLT obtaining their own legal advisor is one of the big achievements from last year.

### **Open Forum**

Steven St. Pierre wanted to point out that a hunting sign was stolen from up on the Elbow Rock Road property. The theft was reported to the Gloucester police. Mark Karmozyn believes that the board should write a letter to the Town Council asking them to officially close that portion of Elbow Rock Road. The road is in poor condition, is basically impassable and the police don't even go up there.

Stephen Mitchell would like to get a jump on ATV issues and would like to review the information that Alan Clawson provided the board on ATV fines that he had done research on. Mr. Mitchell would like to bring

the information to the Town Council so that the town can take a unified stance on the penalties imposed upon the people that disregard the signs stating no ATV usage is allowed.

**Executive Session:** Steven St. Pierre made a motion to enter Executive Session, Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Stephen Mitchell made a motion to leave Executive Session, Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Executive Session Motions:**

**Title 42 Section 42-46-5 (5) Purposes for which meeting may be closed to the public**

Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public.

1. Land Acquisition and / or Conservation Easement: None
2. Litigation: None
3. Personnel: None

There were no votes taken during the Executive Session and there were no guests present to disclose to.

There being no further business before the Land Trust, Stephen Mitchell made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by George Charette and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT FEBRUARY 26, 2014 MEETING