

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
REGULAR MEETING
May 09, 2017

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on May 09, 2017 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent:

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: Russell G. Gross, Jessie Gross and Liz Morris

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 April 11, 2017 meeting; it was seconded by Gene Cavaliere and passed unanimously with Rebecca Schultz recusing herself due to her absence at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Roy Najecki provided an updated treasurer's report to the board which reflected the bills approved at the last meeting and the two additional columns Chairman Mitchell asked him to add. 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 April 11, 2017 meeting minutes and hyperlinking of the agenda; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- b. Russell K. Gross made a motion to pay John J. Bevilacqua \$1,000 for services for April 2017; Steven St. Pierre seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- c. Rebecca Schultz made a motion to pay Midfield Technologies \$490 for their annual charge; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with 6 Aye votes and Steven St. Pierre recusing himself to avoid a conflict of interest. This fee is for the management/maintenance of the website, but does not include Office 365).
- d. Rebecca Schultz made a motion to pay the Land Trust Alliance \$600 for the GLT's Annual Membership; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed with 6 Ayes and 1 Nay (Gene Cavaliere). This membership is for the national alliance, not the local, state alliance.
- e. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay Chepachet Hardware/Apple Villa, Inc. \$51.40 for painting and masonry supplies for Hawkins dam grate project; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

a. Kwandran property Baseline Documentation: Chairman Mitchell reached out to Carol Trocki about the baseline documentation, but she does not have that available for the board yet.

b. Hawkins Dam Overflow Cistern Grate Installation Update: Chairman Mitchell indicated that the grate has been primed / painted and should be installed and bolted firmly in place by the end of the week. While Chairman Mitchell was out there, he noticed tire marks going up and down the causeway. Mr. Mitchell asked Rebecca Schultz and Janine Pitocco to look into the matter and try to come up with some suggestions on how to prevent this from happening again.

c. Tree cutting project discussion: Chairman Mitchell asked the board how they would like to proceed with this item. Two guests have come before the board to provide information, and if the trustees want to move forward then properties would need to be identified. Rebecca Schultz would like to wait to see what impact the gypsy moths make on the trees this year, and maybe the canopy will be thinned out from their infestation. Russell K. Gross is unsure if it will be worth doing because of the mess it will create. Roy Najecki does not see a need to wait and see what damage the gypsy moths do; getting bids would need to be done if project moves forward. Since the trustees have differing opinions on how to proceed, Attorney Bevilacqua recommended that the board hold a separate workshop meeting to discuss this and consider all aspects of the project before deciding on how they want to proceed. Chairman Mitchell polled the board for their availability, and the workshop meeting will be held on May 30th at 7pm in Town Hall.

New Business

a. Moswansicut Riding and Driving Club requests: Chairman Mitchell received an email from Liz Morris of Cranberry Ridge Road to use Steere Hill (June 4) and Sprague Farm (June 11) for Trail Ride Events; proof of insurance was also provided. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to approve both events requested by the Moswansicut Riding and Driving Club; Janine Pitocco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. Betty Mencucci: Chairman Mitchell received an email from Betty Mencucci requesting to conduct a walk on Sprague Farms (September 3). Steven St. Pierre made a motion to Betty Mencucci's request for a walk on September 3rd; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Roy Najecki – Guided Walks requests: Roy Najecki has requested to conduct guided walks on these dates: July 12 at Sprague Farm – Harmony Library, August 12 at Sprague Farm (rain date August 13) Land Trust Days event, September 23 at Steere Hill (rain date September 24) Land Trust Days event. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to approve the three events requested by Roy Najecki; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Najecki will get more information to Mr. St. Pierre to post on the GLT website.

d. Trespassing issue on adjacent property to Steere Hill Conservation Area: Russell K. Gross recused himself from this portion of the meeting due to a conflict of interest. Russell G. Gross provided a brief update on the trespassing issue that has been a problem on his property since 2104 when the Land Trust established a new trail at Steere Hill. Issue is with the people hiking the new trail ignoring/disrespecting the signage that notifies them they are leaving Land Trust property. Recently had a man and a young girl on his property, and when the man was told he was not on Land Trust property, he acknowledged that he knew that. Mr. Gross is hoping to work with the Land Trust to help resolve this issue; he wants to be a good neighbor and is not trying to be difficult. Steven St. Pierre put together a few things to illustrate his suggestion of closing a portion of Ridge Trail, from Stone Dam to Cart Path, by dropping trees and brush. This would make the trail a continuous loop and eliminate the dead end portion. Chairman Mitchell asked Mr. St. Pierre to refine his proposal a little more and bring it back before the board for the June Meeting. Janine Pitocco made a motion to postpone this item until the June meeting; Rebecca Schultz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

e. Hawkins Dam Causeway Issue: Rebecca Schultz and Janine Pitocco were asked by Chairman Mitchell to assess the situation. The trustees agree that there is a need to prevent vehicles / ATV's from reaching the causeway; it would be catastrophic if the causeway was breached. Rebecca Schultz has been up there a couple of times, took pictures to share with the board and did not see any new tire tracks. She did see beer bottles though, as if someone was there having a party. Mrs. Schultz and Mrs. Pitocco suggested the

following: reseeded where eroded, signage, weekly checks on the area, ask Gloucester Police for help with checks and possibly even closing off some of the road. They asked the other trustees for their suggestions. Trustee Pitocco believes it should be very difficult to get a vehicle on to the causeway. Roy Najecki suggested erecting something like a jersey barrier. Attorney Bevilacqua indicated this is a case of drinking and trespassing, and the board should only allow foot traffic to the area with the exception of giving vehicle access to the West Gloucester Fire and Rescue Department. To achieve this, the board could put a bar-way on the eastern side and multiple large concrete blocks on the western side. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to take steps to secure the site and bring cost estimates back to the May workshop meeting; Gene Cavaliere seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

f. Storage Unit/Portable Unit discussion: Russell K. Gross met with a representative of Morton's Steel Building Company, located in Lincoln, RI and also has a rendering of a stick building for consideration of the board. Morton's Steel provided the board with an estimate of \$10/square foot for their buildings. Once the board decides what it wants and where it will be placed, then they can invite someone to a meeting to provide more detailed pricing and information. The trustees believe they would need a 36x40 building, and the project would need to go out to bid. Roy Najecki indicated that right now there is \$15,000 in the budget put aside for the building, but more funds could be moved to help pay for the project.

g. Opening of bids for Joe Sweet Parking Area: The board did not open the bids they received. Stephen Mitchell received an email from Gregg Cassidy at the D.E.M. informing him that the grant is due to expire the 17th of this month, so the work could not be completed in time. The board will need to reapply for the grant. Chairman Mitchell will contact each of the bidders and notify them that their unopened bid will be kept in a secure location until the grant is awarded again. When the board is ready to proceed, the Chair will contact the bidders and give them the option to re-submit a new bid or stay with their original submission.

Correspondence:

a. Katie Steere – 4/14/17: Sent an email to Chairman Mitchell expressing her interest in being involved with the Land Trust and her willingness to connect young farmers with the board. Stephen Mitchell will respond to her and encourage her to become a volunteer.

b. Janine Pitocco – 4/22/17: Chairman Mitchell received an email from Janine Pitocco regarding purchasing some of the nesting boxes from the gentleman that came before the board earlier this year. The prices have remained the same since the presentation, the trustees would just have to decide how many they would like, and what size. Mrs. Pitocco suggested getting four for Hawkins property. Chairman Mitchell will put it on the June agenda to authorize the purchase.

c. Gregg Cassidy – 4/28/17: All approved management plans were sent to the D.E.M. for review. Chairman Mitchell received an email from Gregg Cassidy of the D.E.M. stating that the Steere Hill plan was excellent, but he did have a couple of suggestions/revisions. The amended plan will need to be put on a future agenda for the trustees to vote on.

Trail Inspections: Roy Najecki Gene Cavaliere– Sprague Farm 04/14/17: All trails have been inspected; While inspecting the trails, Roy Najecki noticed trees were cut on Elbow Rock Road and bright orange signs with arrows on them were posted in many locations. Mr. Najecki believes it was for a motor-cross ride, and that would be unusual since no group or person has asked the board for permission to conduct such an event. Steven St. Pierre – Steere Hill/Phillips Farm 04/14/17: All trails have been inspected and documented.

Monthly GLT Activities – Reports: Roy Najecki attended the Appalachian Trail Club chainsaw training last month and also a two day first aid course that they offered.

Open Forum: Russell K. Gross would like to add the issue of rabid raccoons on Steere Hill to the next month's agenda. Rebecca Shultz received an email from Mike Cavaliere offering to lead another vernal pool walk as a GLT event. Chairman Mitchell directed Mrs. Schultz to have Mr. Cavaliere contact him with his offer and it can be placed on a future agenda.

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 8:56p.m. The motion was seconded by Janine Pitocco and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT MAY 30, 2017 MEETING.