

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
REGULAR MEETING
September 24, 2019

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on September 24, 2019 at the Gloucester Town Hall. Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members in attendance: Stephen Mitchell, Steven St. Pierre, Roy Najecki, David Piccirillo, Janine Pitocco, Gene Cavaliere, and Legal Counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Sr.

Members Absent: Russell K. Gross

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: Town Councilman Patricia Henry

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of minutes of previous meetings (discussions and /or action):

- a. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 21, 2019 meeting; it was seconded by David Piccirillo and passed unanimously.

GLT Treasurer's Report (discussions and /or action): Treasurer Roy Najecki did not have an updated report because the budget has not yet been adopted for the new fiscal year, so he suggested this item be postponed. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to postpone this item until the October meeting; it was seconded by Janine Pitocco and passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills (discussions and /or action):

- a. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to pay Judi Rix a total of \$189.00 for August 21, 2019 Minutes; it was seconded by Janine Pitocco and passed unanimously.
- b. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay John J. Bevilacqua, Sr. a total of \$2,000.00 for Legal Services for August and September 2019; it was seconded by David Piccirillo and passed unanimously.
- c. Janine Pitocco made a motion to pay Pare Corporation a total of \$4,696.26 for professional services related to Hawkins Pond from 6/29-7/26/19; it was seconded by David Piccirillo and passed unanimously. This vote was for the record only since it has already been processed by the finance office.

Old Business (discussion and/or action):

- a. 2019-2020 Budget Adoption: Roy Najecki did not have a hard copy for all the trustees to review the proposed budget, and not everyone had their computer, so he suggested the item be postponed to the October meeting. Roy Najecki made a motion to postpone this item; it was seconded by David Piccirillo and passed unanimously.
- b. Clarkville School removal of brush and some trees: Chairman Stephen Mitchell met with the owner of Northern Landscape at the Clarkville schoolhouse to discuss landscaping issues. The estimate came in at \$1,300, which is below the \$1,500 threshold for getting quotes, so Chairman Mitchell gave him authorization to proceed with the work, pending Board approval. Gene Cavaliere made a motion to

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authorize Northern Landscape to proceed with the landscaping work at the Clarkville Schoolhouse property; it was seconded by David Piccirillo and passed unanimously.

c. Historical Cemeteries on Land Trust Properties: Chairman Mitchell received a follow up email from Billy Brown and although the Board has not acted on this item, the Chair is hoping to get somewhere with this soon.

d. Hopkins Woodlands Encroachment: No action has been taken on this since the last meeting. Attorney Bevilacqua was waiting for Roy Najecki to send him the updated pictures he took to send the final notice to the landowner. Member Najecki will send those pictures right away and will also send them to the other Board members.

e. Hawkins Pond Dam Elevation Impact- Pare Corporation: Chairman Mitchell asked that this item be tabled until October. Roy Najecki made a motion to table this item; it was seconded by David Piccirillo and passed unanimously.

New Business (discussions and/or action):

- a. Potential property acquisition on Route 44: Chairman Stephen Mitchell and Attorney Bevilacqua had a phone conversation with the owner of a piece of property on Route 44 between Steere Hill and Board Member David Piccirillo's property. Chairman Mitchell informed the landowner that a process is in place and certain protocols needed to be followed for the Land Trust to acquire land; the owner was not interested in that and said he will sell the land to the town then.
- b. October 1 or 2 Workshop Session with Gloucester Town Council: Chairman Mitchell still has not received confirmation of a date for a workshop meeting with the Town Council, so neither 10/1 nor 10/2 will work at this point. New dates will have to be proposed.
- c. 2019 Hunting Regulations: Chairman Mitchell had asked the members to review the propose regulations prior to the meeting so they were prepared to vote on them. Steven St. Pierre made a motion to approve the 2019 GLT Hunting Regulations as proposed; it was seconded by David Piccirillo and passed unanimously. Chairman Mitchell then set the dates for hunters to come and register at Town Hall: 1) Chairman Mitchell and Gene Cavaliere on Monday, September 30th from 6-8pm; 2) Roy Najecki and Steven St. Pierre on Wednesday, October 2nd from 6-8pm.
- d. Trail Inspections and Maintenance Schedule Concerns: Chairman Mitchell received an email from Walter Steere the Board's Town Council Liaison asking to add these items to the Hawkins Pond Dam workshop session. Chairman Mitchell was not amenable to that idea for several reasons. He believes the discussion regarding the dam repairs will be extensive and will take the entire workshop to get through; he also feels that the liaison should be bringing any concerns directly to the Board's attention, not requesting it be part of a workshop. Concerns that are brought directly to the Board are always handled in a timely manner. The Land Trust has a well-defined process in place to handle trail inspections and maintenance and even has the information on their website. Chairman Mitchell wanted to point out that the Town Council Liaison has not attended one GLT meeting in the past three years, and he has been personally invited to a few.

Member Steven St. Pierre said he has not received any communication from anyone regarding trail issues at Steere Hill since he conducted his inspections in May. Member Roy Najecki said that he recently received a phone call about a couple of items at Steere Hill and was going to bring them to the Board's attention at tonight's meeting. At the meeting in August Councilman Buster Steere mentioned that his son had noticed a few items that needed attention at Steere Hill and was willing to take care of them. The Board directed Councilman Steere to have his son fill out a volunteer form before he could take any action. The Board had hoped the Gloucester DPW could help with the brush

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on the trail by using the brush cutter on it, but they are unable to help with that or with putting up the new sign at this time because they are short staffed.

Chairman Mitchell would like to get the volunteers more organized and see if they could be helpful in maintaining the trails. He asked Roy Najecki and Gene Cavaliere to oversee the volunteers and give a monthly update to the Board on any activities they perform. A good start would be to reconfirm that the members on the list still wish to volunteer in some capacity. Member Najecki will reach out to them and plan a volunteer day for the beginning of November.

Correspondence

- a. Facilities on Sprague Property (09-05-19): Chairman Mitchell received an email asking about bathrooms at Sprague. Roy Najecki investigated it and found that the port-a-johns had not been brought this year. Member Najecki will contact the company to ask for one to be put there for the next three months.
- b. Volunteer Applications - Status: Chairman Mitchell will bring these to the October meeting for approval.
- c. RI Land Trust e-news (09/16/19): Chairman Mitchell received the e-news letter and shared it with the trustees for informational purposes.

Trail Inspection and Volunteer Hour(s) Reports: Trail inspections begin this month and must be completed by the end of October. Steven St. Pierre will begin the inspections at Steere Hill this week.

Monthly GLT Activities/Reports: Roy Najecki attended two seminars recently. The first seminar was a one-day program at URI on pollinators and their benefits; the second seminar on developing equestrian trails. Member Najecki has also been working with the Cumberland Land Trust and Cumberland Planner to help D.E.M revise the wetlands rules; with a focus on beaver control. Member Najecki is also considering organizing a walk at Steere hill for the day after Thanksgiving; he will bring it before the Board before anything is finalized.

Open Forum: Patricia Henry of Chestnut Hill Road, who joined the meeting about halfway through, wanted to mention that the DPW was very responsive to a trail maintenance issue in Heritage Park recently. A resident was concerned that if someone walking the trails needed medical assistance, a rescue would have had a difficult time accessing them due to brush overgrowth. She noted that she was there just as a citizen.

Executive Session: There was no executive session held at the meeting this evening.

There being no further business before the Land Trust, Steven St. Pierre made a motion to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.; it was seconded by David Piccirillo and passed unanimously.

Minutes Approved: October 08, 2019 Meeting.