

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
REGULAR MEETING
May 12, 2020

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on May 12, 2020 via electronic communication (remote ZOOM Video Conferencing). Chair Stephen Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Members Absent:

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: None

Pledge of Allegiance

The link to be a participant at this meeting was available on the Land Trust webpage, the Secretary of State website and at both the town Post Offices. To expedite matters for the meeting, voting on all bills will be via a “consent calendar process.” The Board will take a single vote on the approval of payment of invoices rather than individual votes. All votes will be by roll call to ensure each vote is noted and the total tallied. This process will apply whenever a vote is required.

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

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

MOTION was made by Member Roy Najecki to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2020 meeting.

MOTION was seconded by Member James Giarrusso.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Ayes – 6 (Mitchell, Najecki, St. Pierre, Piccirillo, Pitocco, Giarrusso)

Abstain – 1 (Gene Cavaliere due to his absence at that meeting.)

Approval of Bills (discussions and /or action):

MOTION was made by Member Roy Najecki to pay the following bills:

- a. Judi Rix a total of \$175.00 for April 14, 2020 minutes.
- b. John J. Bevilacqua, Sr. a total of \$1,000.00 for Legal Services for May 12, 2020.
- c. John J. Bevilacqua, Sr. a total of \$2,000.00 for Legal Services for second half of Hawkins Dam Project Preliminary Phase.
- d. Rosewood Consulting, Inc. a total of \$2,603.13 for preparation and submittal of Resiliency for Hawkins Pond Dam.

Approved Minutes

- e. Pare Corporation a total of \$1292.55 for professional services from Feb 29-March 27, 2020.
- f. RI Interlocal Trust a total of \$4239.00 for the annual premium for 2020-2021.

MOTION was seconded by Member James Giarrusso.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Ayes – Unanimous, 7-0 (Mitchell, St. Pierre, Najecki, Cavaliere, Piccirillo, Pitocco, Giarrusso)

Old Business (discussion and/or action)

- a. John Deere Tractor repair and return update: Chairman Mitchell stated it is currently at the town garage and the repairs came in under the amount the Board had approved. Did keep some of the worn parts in case they are needed in the future. The repair cost total included two extra repairs that were not in the original estimate.
- b. Increase petty cash from \$100 to \$300: Chairman Mitchell would like to officially make it part of the record and asks for the authorization to increase the GLT petty cash from \$100 to \$300.

MOTION was made by Member James Giarrusso to increase the GLT petty cash from \$100 to \$300.

MOTION was seconded by Member Roy Najecki.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: Ayes – Unanimous, 7-0 (Mitchell, St. Pierre, Najecki, Cavaliere, Piccirillo, Pitocco, Giarrusso)

New Business (discussions and/or action):

- a. Update and approval of mowing on top of Steere Hill: Chairman Mitchell was able to secure a quote of \$3,600 for this project from Northern Landscape. The Board believes this is a good price and because it is under the threshold set by the town the job does not need to go out to bid. Member Roy Najecki was concerned about the timing of the cutting because of the bird habitats and the management plans; the fields should be allowed to grow high for a couple of months from April and on. Member James Giarrusso would like to cut it once a year around the end of August going forward. Better to cut it low now and then get on the right schedule; the places Member Najecki recently mowed will be fine until mid-August. Member Janine Pitocco wants to stay as consistent to the management plans as possible. Chairman Mitchell also wants to comply with the management plan. Member Giarrusso is willing to meet the owner of Northern Landscape to discuss the plan to mow; Chairman Mitchell will contact Northern Landscape to facilitate that meeting. A small portion will be cut now and the entire job will be done in mid/late August.

MOTION was made by Vice-Chairman Steven St. Pierre to authorize the mowing on top of Steere Hill for a cost of \$3,600 by Northern Landscape.

MOTION was seconded by Member David Piccirillo.

DISCUSSION: Member Giarrusso wanted to make sure he was clear that the main field mowing will have to wait until August and will need to have a separate vote at a future meeting; Chairman Mitchell stated that was correct.

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VOTE: Ayes – Unanimous, 7-0 (Mitchell, St. Pierre, Najecki, Cavaliere, Piccirillo, Pitocco, Giarrusso)

b. Receipt of Resiliency Grant from Rosewood Consulting and next steps: Chairman Mitchell provided each trustee with a copy of the grant that was submitted. The grant would be for \$500,000; the Board can also apply for a supplemental grant for \$250,000 if there are funds remaining in the current round of awards from the Resiliency Grant. The consultant is also looking into other funding opportunities for the Board to pursue; both Steve and the consultant spoke with Jay Manning from DEM today to see what other options may be available. A Woolen Mill operated adjacent to the Clarksville Pond which feeds into the Hawkins Pond. The question remains whether dyes that were used by the Woolen Mill may have leached out into the water and flowed into the Hawkins Pond, thus settling on its bottom. Chairman Mitchell would like to consult with Pare Corporation to contract out services to undertake core sampling to see if there is any contamination; if water quality of dam is good then that opens up other options for the Board. The testing was recommended by Mr. Manning. This situation is unique in the fact that the dam and the pond are contiguous with another state. The Member Piccirillo asked when we may anticipate a decision on the grant application, and Chairman Mitchell responded that he anticipates a decision in approximately five weeks.

c. Potential projects for Spring and Summer 2020 to be determined and plan of action: Chairman Mitchell asked if Member David Piccirillo and Member Janine Pitocco had been up to Hopkins property. Member Piccirillo has been up there and lots of people have been there fishing. Member Piccirillo also asked about when the Board will want to take down the building on the property. Chairman Mitchell asks them to look at what needs to be done and reach out to Member Giarrusso and Vice-Chairman St. Pierre if necessary, there is no timeline for demolishing the building at this time.

Chairman Mitchell asked Member Roy Najecki and Member Gene Cavaliere about Sprague Farm. Member Najecki has been out to Sprague Property and it was pretty good until the recent windstorm. Member Najecki would like to get some work done on the main trail this summer. Also going to create the new trail from the Joe Sweet Road parking area this spring. Member Giarrusso will transport the gator to Sprague for Member Najecki if the DPW can get it on the GLT trailer. Member Cavaliere said he has done some work on the property, but Member Najecki has done most of it. Member Cavaliere has been injured and will be having surgery on his shoulder soon.

Chairman Mitchell asked about Steere Hill. Vice-Chairman Steven St. Pierre stated that Member James Giarrusso worked very hard and got approval and permits for the Board to put four bridges on the property. It has been a lot of work trying to keep up on the trails and pick up the garbage because they are so heavily used during this pandemic. The primary portion of the bridges will be built at Jim's house and transported to Steere Hill to be assembled; this will require some help to get them installed. There are several things that must be in place to be in compliance with the requirements in the Alteration permit just received from DEM to allow the GLT to construct the bridges. Member Giarrusso needs to have a stamped/signed copy of the permit with him while working on the project and the document must be recorded in the Town Clerk's office. Attorney John Bevilacqua will contact Town Clerk Jean Fecteau to ensure the paperwork is handled properly and filed by the deadline. Chairman Mitchell thanked Member Giarrusso for all his hard work to get this project off the ground; Member Pitocco also thanked him and offered her assistance if he needs her. Member Giarrusso said Member St. Pierre did a great job getting a fantastic deal on the lumber needed from Scituate Lumber. Chairman Mitchell asked each property maintenance team to put together a list of their projects and send it to him; the Board can revisit the list of projects in June.

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Correspondence: None.

Trail Inspection(s) and Maintenance Work Reports: Covered in spring projects.

Monthly GLT Activities – Reports: Member Roy Najecki was asked by the RI Land trust council if the Board would consider putting in a trail counter to see how many people are using the property. Chairman Mitchell asked that Rupert Friday send him something on it so it can be put on the next agenda.

Open Forum: Vice-Chairman Steven St. Pierre asked that it go on the record that when we pay our attorney every month it is not just for the meeting, it is for his services for the entire month. There have been rumors around town to the contrary and he wanted to set the record straight.

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

There being no further business before the Land Trust, Janine Pitocco made a motion to adjourn at 8:27pm.; it was seconded by James Giarrusso and passed unanimously.

Minutes Approved: August 18, 2020 meeting.