

GLOCESTER LAND TRUST
REGULAR MEETING
April 14, 2015

The regular meeting of the Gloucester Land Trust took place on April 14, 2015 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, Gene Cavaliere (arrived as Mr. Cobb was speaking), Roy Najecki, Rebecca Schultz, George Charette and legal counsel John J. Bevilacqua, Sr.

Members Absent: Steven St. Pierre

Minutes: Judi Rix

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Cobb, Terry and Darlene Clark, Beth Noonan

Pledge of Allegiance

Open Forum Agenda Items Only: Mr. Daniel Cobb of 131 Sprague Hill Road wished to speak about an issue occurring at Sprague Hill property. Google maps currently shows a parking area in the woods at that location, but there isn't one and cars are driving in and parking all over the place. Wondering if there is a way to rectify that and limit the access to the location because kids are having parties in the woods. Gloucester Police Department has been notified of the situation and has even had contact with the group, but they still keep coming back. Mr. Cobb suggested maybe putting up a gate to keep cars from going back there. A couple of the trustees have visited the site and the board will follow up on this problem.

Approval of minutes of previous meetings

- a. Rebecca Schultz made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2015 meeting; it was seconded by Russell K. Gross and passed unanimously with George Charette abstaining due to his absence at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Roy Najecki stated that the financials just came out this morning, but he still did not see the Rich & Amy Jakowski \$100 donation on the spreadsheet. Stephen Mitchell stated that it was just deposited and will show up on the next updated financial release. Russell K. Gross made a motion to accept the budget report as presented; it was seconded by Gene Cavaliere and passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills

- a. Rebecca Schultz made a motion to pay the recording clerk Judi Rix \$145 for the March 10, 2015 meeting minutes as well as the additional \$11.09 FICA charge to the town; Russell K. Gross seconded and it passed unanimously.
- b. Rebecca Schultz made a motion to pay John Bevilacqua's March 2015 invoice for \$1,000; George Charette seconded and it passed unanimously.
- c. George Charette made a motion to pay Midfield Technologies annual renewal fee for GLT website invoice for \$290; Russell K. Gross seconded and it passed unanimously.

Russell K. Gross motioned to move the Executive Session up for the consideration of the guests in attendance that are at the meeting for the sole purpose of speaking to the board; it was seconded by George Charette and passed unanimously.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Russell K. Gross to convene to Executive Session; it was seconded by George Charette and passed by all. Rebecca Schultz made a motion to leave Executive Session, Gene Cavaliere seconded the motion and it passed by all.

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.

- a. Acquisition of land and / or conservation easement: None

Old Business

- a. Approval of Action Plan: A copy of the updated action plan was provided to all the trustees. Roy Najecki made a motion to accept the action plan as presented; Russell K. Gross seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- b. Joe Sweet Recreational Trail Grant Update: Roy Najecki and Stephen Mitchell visited the property yesterday and the location where the new parking lot will be located is great. Stephen Mitchell is going to ask the D.E.M. for an on-site visit.
- c. GLT presentation to Town Council: Stephen Mitchell made a presentation on March 19th to the Town Council summarizing the work the GLT has done and what plans they have for the future. The Town Council was impressed and appreciated the update from the board.
- d. Timeframe to review/update management plans: Roy Najecki, Rebecca Schultz and Stephen Mitchell need to set a date with John Bevilacqua to begin this process. Half of the year has gone by already and the board needs to get working on it. Stephen Mitchell will send an email to Mr. Najecki and Mrs. Schultz to pick a date, but would like them to consider either May 11th or May 14th.

New Business

- a. Timeframe for Baseline Documentation: Rebecca Schultz has begun working on this for Steere Hill and will try to work on it more prior to the May 11th or 14th meeting. There are a lot of gaps in information and the paperwork is very disjointed. Hopefully documentation that is missing can be found at town hall. Stephen Mitchell has suggested that maybe Judi Rix could assist with some of the clerical work at the pre-established rate of \$20/hour (see 4/16/13 minutes), and Ms. Rix agreed to assist with this project.
- b. New Sign Purchases: The board has already purchased three signs, but need a few more to place at properties on Rte. 44. (Maybe Phillips, Hawkins and Kwandrans) Russell K. Gross made a motion to authorize the purchase of three more signs to be placed at locations to be determined at another date; George Charette seconded and it passed unanimously.
- c. Installation of new signs already purchased: John Bevilacqua doesn't believe this needs to be discussed, just let the people in charge of the project decide how and when they will complete. It will be dependent on the weather and their free time. Russell K. Gross suggested that the board put one sign up, for an example to show someone, to get a bid to pay to have them put up. Mr. Gross thinks putting up all these signs is too much for just a couple of people.
- d. Installation of safety grate at Hawkins Pond: John Bevilacqua doesn't believe this needs to be discussed either, just let the people in charge of this project decide how and when they will complete. Stephen Mitchell will contact Gary Treml the Director of Public Works to see if they can assist with this project.
- e. Develop plan to repaint Hawkins garage and tree removal: These projects will go out to bid.
- f. Develop timeframe for annual inspection of properties: Need to begin working on this. Trail inspection policy approved, but not policy for inspecting the entire property.

Correspondence

- a. GLT Annual report: Judi Rix completed and submitted to the town clerk's office.
- b. Betty Mencucci – Mrs. Mencucci notified Stephen Mitchell that property near Sprague Farm may be coming on the market for purchase soon. AS part of his estate, the landowner has asked that the property be sold.

- c. Shawn Cary – Property owner that has reached out to the Land Trust to see what procedure he would need to follow to donate a portion of his 10 acre parcel on Pine Orchard Road. The landowner would need to subdivide the property to donate only a portion of it; John Bevilacqua will contact the landowner and report back to the trustees at the May 12th meeting.
- d. Daniel Cobb: Mr. Cobb spoke at the beginning.
- e. Room #5 in Town Hall: This room is now available for the GLT to use, the trustees would like as much work done at town hall as possible and keep the removal of paperwork from there down to a minimum.
- f. Safety enhancement grant status: The board did not get the grant, but going to move forward with the purchase anyway.
- g. Annual renewal of Interlocal Trust Policy: Stephen Mitchell received a brochure about how the premium for the GLT is established. Mr. Mitchell needs to answer some questions for them to help determine the rate that is paid.

Monthly GLT Activities – Reports: Roy Najecki and Gene Cavaliere recently attended the RI Land Trust conference and it was very informative.

Open Forum Stephen Mitchell asked about holding a workshop on April 28th to discuss the easement proposal and the issues of that proposition that came up at the planning board. That date was not good with a number of the trustees, so the board will hold a special meeting on May 19th when the trustees would be available to discuss further. There will be many things to discuss; this is a big undertaking and should be considered carefully since it will bind the GLT perpetually to the parcel, there is no need to rush to decide.

Roy Najecki wanted to bring to the attention of the board that there is a daylong consortium on May 9th at Camp Canonicus in Exeter that has presentations that would be of interest to the trustees. One of the presentations is on harvesting trees and a second one is on action plans; Roy will be attending the event. When discussing marking trees for cutting, Roy Najecki would prefer paint and not ribbons, but George Charette disagrees and thinks ribbons are the best way to go. Mr. Najecki believes that the ribbons come off the marked tree too easily and then it is difficult to know which tree should be removed. The next GLT meeting will be held on May 12, 2015.

There being no further business before the Land Trust, Russell K. Gross made a motion to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. The motion was seconded by George Charette and it passed unanimously.

APPROVED AT MAY 12, 2015 MEETING.