

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD
Minutes—January 9, 2013

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

Present: Lynn Baker, Mary Hawvermale, Jean Melita, Doug Mahard, Mark Miller, Bev Mosch, Anneke Rothman, Sandra Ruzicka, Steve Sabatini, Carol Spier, Bob Ueberbacher

Secretary's report: The December minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Bob gave an updated but still preliminary assessment of the November Dinner/Auction. It appears we netted approximately \$16,000. Final assessment to come.

We have 86 dues-paying members; approximately \$2,100 were donated in response to the Dinner/Auction invitation by people who joined the BLT but did not attend the event. Near the end of the year we also received a \$25,000 donation from an anonymous supporter.

Returning Board Members: It was moved and approved that Doug Mahard and Mark Miller rejoin the BLT Board of Directors.

Old Business:

Land Acquisition:

Still Hill Property: In view of the end of year receipts we discussed making a substantial payment to the Canfields, to pay down the principal outstanding on the mortgage. It was moved and approved that this payment be \$15,000. Mary will check with Bob Hanahan to find out the correct way to send and record the payment (the mortgage is held by the Canfields, not a bank).

Bellamy Preserve: We discussed further cleanup along the stone wall on Route 61 and the potential for receiving some grant funding to accomplish this. We need formal bids in order to apply for a grant: Mary and Doug will talk with Scott Blum; Carol will talk with Luis Gutierrez.

Website: We need to renew the domain name and hosting contract and reactivate the Paypal account. Doug will try to untangle the first two of these; Mary will take care of the third. Carol will try to get the new site in working order.

Fundraising: We agreed this is too large a topic for this meeting. Everyone is to think of fundraising options and bring ideas to the next meeting.

New Business:

Preserve at the corner of Green Hill and Harrison: There are reports of ATV incursion on this property. Various suggestions for thwarting it have been deemed ineffective; we need to find a way to keep ATVs off the property.

CT Land Conservation Council: The annual day of workshops and seminars is March 23 at Wesleyan University. Anyone who can is encouraged to attend as these are very useful. Here is a link to the website with details:
<http://www.ctconservation.org/savethedate2013ctlandconservationconference>

Newsletter: Jean showed a prototype of a newsletter that will be sent to all Bethlehem residents. This can be a quarterly or semi-annual mailing that will keep the town up to date about BLT matters. Jean and Carol will meet to refine the newsletter so it can be printed and mailed soon.

Sandy Hook Memorial at the Bellamy Preserve: In the aftermath of the tragedy in Newtown Doug had suggested via email that we create a memorial to the victims in the Bellamy Preserve. Everyone would like to do something but we agreed such a direct homage is not part of our mission. We discussed creating a more general healing place such as a "Glade of Solace" that could include a reference to the tragedy as part of its purpose of providing a quiet, soothing place of beauty welcoming to all.

Doug will have the site he suggests ready in the spring and we can visit it and have further discussion at that time.

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 . . . all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier