

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD MEETING
Minutes—January 14, 2015

Present: Lynn Baker, Mary Hawvermale, Doug Mahard, Jean Melita, Mark Miller, Beverly Mosch, Stuart Rabinowitz, Sandra Ruzicka, Carol Spier, Bob Ueberbacher.
Visiting: Matt Asaro

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Note: Matt attended to observe and report upon our meeting as part of his high school civics class.

Secretary's report: The November 2014 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: The nearly final auction results are about the same as last year. As we have in past years, we received a generous donation from an anonymous donor. We also received a donation from the Middlebrook Family Fund at the Connecticut Community Foundation.

Old Business:

Dinner/Auction: We discussed changing the way we produce the auction in order to make it easier on the board, more timely and efficiently organized, and even more successful. Bev suggested we enlist the help of others in the community who have expertise in producing events like ours, forming a committee that would work with Board supervision of course. She will ask Kate Eren to attend our February meeting to explore her chairing such a committee.

Monitoring: Doug took the GIS class offered by Weantinogue. This is a technology that allows one to map property boundaries (or paths or any other course or position) using a cell phone camera and a special GIS monitor; there is software that allows the photos and GIS data to merge and form a map. Once you've mapped something, the monitor will find it for you again on repeat visits. (For instance, once you map the surveyor's monuments the monitor can guide you to them again.)

This technology will be an enormous help for mapping and marking boundaries of our properties and make monitoring them in the future much easier. Mapping all our properties is a big undertaking; Doug reports the process is complicated enough that it makes sense for one person who has been trained to oversee it all. Weantinogue can help.

Canfield Mortgage: It was moved and approved that we pay off half the outstanding mortgage for the Canfield Preserve, plus the interest due for 2014.

Bellamy Fields: Jon O'Neil did not cut the butterfly field as expected. Doug will ask Tom Rogers to brush hog it.

Butterfly Day: The Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden is interested in co-hosting

another Butterfly Day. We discussed the positives of making this an annual event (good educational and community outreach, environmentally beneficial, fun). Mary will find out the date and we will formally confirm our participation at the next meeting, when we are sure enough Board members can commit to being there.

New Business:

Bellamy Preserve Cleanup: Scott Blum submitted a proposal for cleaning along the wall on the Munger Lane side of the Bellamy Preserve. Doug will get some other bids.

2015 Board Goals: It's time to review the strategic plan. All Board members are asked to give serious consideration to the things we should and would like to accomplish this year. Please bring your top 3 goals to next meeting. We will list, compare, analyze, prioritize, and choose.

Email outreach: Dan Carlinsky is urging us to start communicating with our members via email blasts. He collected a lot of addresses at the auction. We agree this is a good idea if done carefully so as not to overwhelm recipients.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 . . . all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier