

**BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD**  
**Minutes—February 13, 2013**

**Call to Order:** 7:45 p.m.

**Present:** Lynn Baker, Mary Hawvermale, Doug Mahard, Bev Mosch, Vera Rosa, Anneke Rothman, Sandra Ruzicka, Carol Spier, Bob Ueberbacher

**Secretary's report:** The January minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Bob gave a current financial summary (breakout follows at end of these minutes). The 2012 Dinner/Auction profit is \$14,702.80. Our total funds are \$152,000 in round numbers.

The \$15,000 payment to the Canfield's we approved last month has not been made; Mary is to contact Bob Hanahan to determine the appropriate way to record it.

**Old Business:**

**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>

**Land Acquisition:**

**March Family Property:** Mary had been approached by Tom March about a large parcel near the Bethlehem recycling center and sent an email to alert the board that it could be available. She told the Marches that if BLT were to be interested in the property it would only be as a gift or at very bargain price. Discussion at the meeting deemed this property fails to meet our Land Acquisition Criteria and does not at present seem worth further investigation.

**Bellamy Preserve:** Doug is waiting for the snow to melt so the wall can be walked before soliciting bids for further cleanup.

**Website:** The Paypal account is now working and the domain name registration has been renewed for 9 years. Carol is ready to work with Marianne Greco on polishing the text and mechanics of the new site (n.b. this is in the works). Bev and Carol will try to get the COG map showing Bethlehem's preserved properties updated with the Canfield and Pratt properties.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter went to all Bethlehem residents at the end of January; it has produced 5 new or renewing memberships.

We are generally pleased with the newsletter. The next edition should give focus to our land acquisition process: Summarize the acquisition criteria, promote donation and easement, dispel any notion that we have deep coffers or are eager/able to purchase property.

**Sandy Hook Memorial at the Bellamy Preserve:** Our thinking on this has changed somewhat. The Arboretum at Long Horizon's Preserve contains trees planted as memorials and it makes sense to plant one or two trees there to honor the two victims who had direct connections with Bethlehem and perhaps create an additional homage to the children and other adults who died (a stone arrangement, a bench, a planting—to be discussed more).

**Fundraising:** We tossed around a number of ideas, all of which require further thought:

- Offer tethered balloon rides at the annual meeting (or another time)
- Develop some sort of wood artifact to sell, made from a downed tree on one of the properties—could be a pen, a letter opener, etc.
- Host a winter party on the Bellamy property, with a bonfire, refreshments. Sell tickets, maybe have kids' games
- Come up with something similar to an individual "named" brick sale (as for the walkway at the Southbury Library) for the Canfield Preserve—planks for a bridge over the creek, benches, etc.
- Have neighborhood parties to solicit new members and donations
- Every board member should sign up at least one new member a month

**New Business:**

**Preserve signage:** We will need a sign for the Canfield Preserve. Sandy will contact Voss Signs to find out the options, and also go look at the Bellamy and Long Horizons signs to see what we have used to date. We should decide upon something that can be used consistently to identify BLT properties.

**Bethlehem Fire Department Mock Water Rescue:** The fire department had contacted Mary requesting permission to have a practice nighttime rescue at Two Rivers Preserve; they will use just one ATV and should not do any damage. By email we all felt this would be fine; it's a good opportunity to build strong ties with another town organization. The rescue is scheduled for Feb 21.

**Sherlock Radon Test:** Lynn had a radon test done at the Sherlock house. The results are borderline allowable. She will investigate what this means and whether any further action is required.

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 . . . all in favor.

**Respectfully Submitted:** Carol Spier

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST  
2012 Year End Account Summary (prepared Feb 2013)

TSB Checking	\$15,486.81
TSB 0238 (120) (for Sherlock)	7,200.00
TSB "Seeds" (CD)	2,000.00
USB/ PW-Bellamy (stewardship, money market fund)	39,099.95
TSB "B" (land acquisition)	9,157.48
TSB "B-2" (land acquisition, CD)	29,014.07
T. Rowe Price (land acquisition, mutual fund)	50,349.81
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$152,308.12</b>