

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD
Minutes—April 11, 2012

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

Present: Lynn Baker, Mary Hawvermale, Jean Melita, Bev Mosch, Vera Rosa, Stuart Rabinowitz, Anneke Rothman, Sandra Ruzicka, Carol Spier, Trish Traver

Secretary's report: The March minutes were amended to correct the meeting date to March 14 and then approved.

Treasurer's report: Bob was not present; no report or discussion.

Old Business:

Strategic Plan: Re implementing our priorities chosen last month:

Everyone to think of concrete steps we can take to build the board
Anneke will coordinate monitoring of the properties; Mary to help her set up materials and process.

Website: Stuart reports Marianne Greco would like to work on our website (she does the site for the Bethlehem Community Garden); Carol to contact her.

Land Acquisition Committee: Bev gave an update: She and Mary met with the owners of the Still Hill property, who appear interested in seeing the BLT acquire this parcel although the price they mentioned is higher than we had hoped. Mary gave them materials explaining the donor procedures and tax advantages and we will follow up after they have time to consider these. The consensus among the board is that we should proceed with discussions.

To follow up on Bob's question about the status of the Town Open Space Fund: This is now the Town Land Acquisition Fund and by state statute can be used for open space, recreational property, or affordable housing property, and any expenditure must be approved at a town meeting (or by referendum, not sure—CS). Meaning it is more flexible in that it is not reserved for open space (preferably farmland) as previously but also there are more candidates to receive it. There is currently somewhat over \$200K in the fund; Jack Nelson thinks about \$225K. Nancy McMillan told Mary the committee would welcome proposals from the BLT.

Bellamy Preserve: Steve and Mary walked and measured the wall: 2400' along Main Street North and 1000' along Bellamy Lane. Mary will email the project specs (included at the end of these minutes, for the record).

Bev spoke to one of the Trustees of the Ferriday Fund, who said that if we put together a proposal for funding this project he will take it to the other trustees.

New Business:

Annual Meeting: The bylaws specify that we are to hold an annual meeting. If we want it to be attractive to the public we need to plan ahead and come up with something that will truly be a draw, perhaps an activity for children. One idea is to develop a scavenger hunt at the Bellamy Preserve. Or some sort of rally (?).

Auncient Oak Preserve: Carol walked this property with Ruth Avitabile. It is lovely: woodland with an open understory with myriad streams and wetlands. The terrain includes steep drop-offs and interesting rock face. We found only one BLT sign and one surveyor's marker and it is difficult to ascertain the perimeter boundaries, but all appears to be undisturbed. A sizable neighbor to the west is Camp Washington, which extends across the town line from Morris; another neighbor to the southwest is Ruane property.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. ...all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier

Bellamy Ferriday Stone Wall Project

Phase 1

Main Street North starting at the end of the picket fence. (Approximately 2400 feet to the end)

Rake and blow leaves, clear dead wood off the wall.

Cut or pull all shrubs and invasives abutting the wall:

Barberry, Multiflora Rose

Honeysuckle, Russian Olive

Cut all small trees approximately 3 inches and under

Spray and pull all Poison Ivy and Virginia Creeper.

Sever all vines growing on trees on the road side, Euonymus and Poison Ivy vines.

Phase 2

Same as above on Bellamy Lane section, approximately 1000 feet to Cemetery.

All debris to be disposed in an appropriate manner—chipped and dumped at a site selected by the BLT, or discarded off-site.

Spraying to be done by a licensed person.

