

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD MEETING
Minutes—April 9, 2014

Present: Lynn Baker, Emily Eisen, Mary Hawvermale, Jean Melita, Mark Miller, Beverly Mosch, Stuart Rabinowitz, Sandra Ruzicka, Steve Sabatini, Carol Spier, John Swendsen, Bob Ueberbacher;

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

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

Treasurer's report: Bob reminded us that expenses greater than \$500 need board approval. This came up because there was a septic backup at the Sherlock House and Little Town Mechanical addressed it, arranged for pumping, and then brought the pipe up to ground level as required by code; the latter being costly.

Old Business:

Land Acquisition Committee: Mark, Bev, and Carol met and explored properties currently on the market: not much and nothing of interest to us. The committee recommends that we concentrate on facilitating easements or donations of properties that are significant and/or contiguous to those already preserved.

Planters' Choice Tree donation: There are four trees for Long Horizons: 2 white birch and 2 Thunder Cloud plums. John and Stuart will plant them. Also, the town will donate some wood chips to this preserve. We are considering dedicating the flowering ones to honor the two Sandy Hook victims with Bethlehem connections (someone needs to take charge of this, to make sure the families are amenable).

Earth Day Cleanup: John has arranged with the town selectmen to organize a townwide cleanup day on Saturday April 26th. Doug has donated trash bags. Carol will do a small poster and John will do a press release. The plan is for people to come to town hall, pick up a bag, and get a road assignment; filled bags can be left on the roadside for the town crew to pick up on Monday the 28th.

Potential caterer for the Dinner/Auction: Stuart was contacted by "La Cuisine," a caterer who used to work for Jordan Caterers. To be further investigated.

New Business:

Bellamy Monarch Butterfly Preserve?: We have the opportunity to turn the orchard at Bellamy into a Monarch Preserve. The gardener (George) at the Bellamy-Ferriday House is a licensed Monarch conservationist, educator, and teacher. There will be an event on June 7th, with milkweed plants, chrysalids, a pop-up butterfly house. A motion was made and approved that the BLT co-sponsor this event.

Drainage at the Bellamy Cornfield: John reports the path in the cornfield is draining into Munger Lane and will eventually undermine the newly surfaced road. We should create a curtain drain to carry the water back into the cornfield. Tom March could dig a culvert; Stuart will talk to him.

Sherlock: The yard is messy; perhaps we should offer to do a workday there.

Miscellaneous news:

- The Bethlehem Wildlife Club could be interested in joining us in some conservation efforts.
- The federal government has released some previously approved funds to preserve 40 farms in CT (these properties have already been designated). Good news.
- Verdi Energy Group is available to do volunteer work; Cynthia Rabinowitz has contact information.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 . . . all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier