

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD
Minutes—May 9, 2012

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

Present: Lynn Baker, Mary Hawvermale, Tom Keilty, Jean Melita, Bev Mosch, Stuart Rabinowitz, Sandra Ruzicka, Steve Sabatini, Carol Spier, Bob Ueberbacher; Chris Armentano. *Guests:* Marianne Greco, Tom March, Scott Blum.

Secretary's report: The April minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: The tax return will be complete shortly; Bob will show it to us at the June meeting. No surprises are expected.

There are approximately \$3,000.00 in the checking account at present.

Old Business:

Website Update: Maryanne Greco explained that she is recreating our website in an easier to use format (so that we can easily update it) and also refocusing it to bring forth the allure of the properties. She will restructure it and create a dummy site for our feedback.

Bellamy Preserve: Scott Blum gave us a proposal to spray the poison ivy, etc., along the stone wall on Main Street and Bellamy Lane, and to clear the sapling overgrowth behind the wall along the Bellamy Field, with the debris to be piled somewhere in the field. (No contractors responded to request for bids for a complete cleanup.) Discussion included the probable need for a second spraying at a later date; fee for this is not included in the bid.

Scott cautioned against doing PR for this project as there is potential negative feedback about the spraying.

Stuart moved that we accept the "option 1" version of the bid (to spray with Prosecutor non-selective herbicide) as well as the clearing of the saplings etc behind the stone wall along the field. Total for this work is \$1475.00. (See attached copy of bid.) Motion approved.

Mary mentioned the possibility of applying to Thomaston Savings Bank for a grant to cover this phase of the cleanup, which is not as significant as a total cleanup that would remove all the dead vines and saplings and for which we might apply to the Ferriday Fund when we have a bid for the complete project.

Stuart mentioned that we have piles of stone Tom March has made in the cornfield should we wish to rebuild the missing portion of the wall at a later date.

Annual Meeting: To be at the Bellamy-Ferriday House on July 22 at 1 p.m. The program will be a presentation on insects by John Himmelman, which should be appealing to kids.

Land Acquisition Committee: Bev is continuing discussions with the Canfields re the property on Still Hill Road. The committee urges our patience while the Canfields absorb the implications of the tax advantages to them of a deal that would be feasible for the BLT.

New Business:

Cornfield at Bellamy Preserve: Tom March requested permission to take down the trees along the Munger Lane and Bellamy Lane sides of the 8-acre cornfield, which he plants. He reports the trees suck up water and fertilizer, reducing his crop, and also the ones along Bellamy Lane intersect the power lines to his farm buildings, creating a potential threat to his enterprise. Many of these trees are sick or dead, but not all of them.

After Tom departed there was discussion: We would like to accommodate his request in an informed manner. Stuart will organize a visit to include Steve, Bev, and Lynn to assess the situation and get back to everyone.

Appeal Letter: Mary and Carol will work on updating the appeal letter from last year, which, as Bob mentioned, is key to maintaining and increasing membership.

Trish Traver resignation: Trish is resigning from the BLT board, citing too many obligations. The board thanks Trish for her participation and will miss her.

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

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier