

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD
Minutes—May 8, 2013

Present: Lynn Baker, Doug Mahard, Bev Mosch, Stuart Rabinowitz, Vera Rosa, Anneke Rothman, Sandra Ruzicka, Carol Spier, Bob Ueberbacher; Chris Armentano

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

Secretary's report: The minutes were approved for the regular and special April meetings.

Treasurer's report: The incorrect billing for our credit card receipt account has been resolved, and the excess fee refunded.

There are \$3,495 in the checking account, sufficient for operating expenses for the immediate future. Bob is investigating combining and better investing two of the savings accounts. He is about to work on the annual taxes with the accountant.

Old Business:

Website: We are now able to update the website ourselves and it is in good shape and fully functional; all the contact and form submission links are operational as is the PayPal. In lieu of an honorarium, Marianne Greco has asked that we make a donation to the Community Garden in honor of Jeanne Sargeant and Jack Nelson. It was moved and approved that we donate \$250. Carol and Mary will write cover letters to the Conservation Commission and to thank Marianne for designing the new site.

Please send photos of wildlife or habitat etc to Carol.

Canfield Preserve: Chris has volunteered to be the steward. Mary is eager to mark a loop trail from the east edge (the wood-road entry from Still Hill) down to the parking area; we ask that she send an email to let us know when she wants to do this so anyone who wishes can help her. It was suggested that when we are ready to actually clear the trail we contact the agri-sci students at Nonnewaug. Also there may be Eagle Scouts who would like to make trail-building a project (Eagle Scout leader is Blair Albrecht).

Sandy showed us a mockup of the Canfield Preserve sign. It should be ready by the end of this week. Mary has posts she will donate.

Earl Canfield gave a guided tour of the perimeter of the preserve May 3 so we could see how he had blazed it; Mary, Bev, Carol, Anneke, Jean, and Lynn were there, along with Bob and Elizabeth Hanahan. We put up Land Trust marker signs at the corners and intervals along the edges. The property is extensive and gorgeous; none of us had previously explored all of it.

There is a lot of barberry on the property. Stuart has a method of cutting it and then burning the stumps; perhaps the fire dep't can be enlisted to assist with this at some point (conditions are much too dry now).

Sherlock: The new lease (April–March) has been signed. Lynn will schedule another radon test when the tenant has no further need to burn wood for heat. The house should be aired for a couple of days before the test.

Bellamy Preserve: Doug received a proposal for cleaning the area along the stone wall from Scott Blum, Willow Brook Landscape Services, for \$1,650 (attached). Doug is expecting a bid from a second contractor.

Bob suggested we have another sign made for this preserve, to post along Main Street (midway along the wall) so as to be visible from both directions. Apparently the Town is going to be redoing Munger Lane.

Arboretum at Long Horizons: Doug and the students from Woodhall School mulched the trees as planned. Thanks to Bethlehem Masonry Supply for donating the mulch.

Fundraising Ideas: We tossed around a number of ideas. Stuart volunteered to take charge of developing and spearheading this effort.

- Improve the auction by soliciting enticing items that can be promoted before the event and will bring in substantial bids.
- Produce a Bike Trekking event next spring.
- Host neighborhood parties to solicit new members and donations.

Other ideas from past meetings:

- 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.
- Every board member should sign up at least one new member a month

New Business:

Photo Contest: As we discussed needing photos for the web site Chris suggested we have a photo contest, with assorted categories, a jury, and prizes. Perhaps there could be an exhibition at Bellamy. Could be in conjunction with next year's annual meeting. Maybe there is a way to turn this into a fundraising event—needs further development.

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 . . . all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier