

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD MEETING
Minutes—May 13, 2015

Present: Mary Hawvermale, Jean Melita, Beverly Mosch, Stuart Rabinowitz, Sandra Ruzicka, Steve Sabatini, Carol Spier, Bob Uberbacher. Guest: Kate Eren (auction committee chair)

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's report: The minutes for the April 8 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: The tax return has been filed. We have no upcoming expenses other than auction preparations or potential newsletter printing/mailing.

Old Business:

Dinner/auction: Kate presented ideas for the next auction: In the interest of adding life and broadening the appeal, we will change the event from a dinner to a wine/beer tasting with bountiful hors d'oeuvres. It will be held at the Bethlehem Fairgrounds on Sunday, September 27, 4:30 to 7:30. The décor will be farm-y and fun, utilizing the display tables in the building. The only charge to us will be for pumping the septic system. The committee will seek significant sponsorship from local businesses, promising prominent exposure in proportion to the donation level.

Bev suggested approaching the Carmel Hill Foundation for a donation

We discussed assorted premiums, such as wine glasses engraved with BLT logo

We discussed entertainment options: music by local (board!) talent

We will announce and promote the event as soon as we are sure vendors wish to participate.

Potential BLT office: Frontier Communications proposed that we lease their building on Main Street for \$500/month plus the taxes and assume responsibility for fixing it up. This is not what we had in mind; we had hoped they would donate it (or the use of it) to us.

GIS Mapping: Weantinogue Heritage Land Trust is digitizing all our maps so we can work with the GIS system.

Cleanup Day: Was fairly successful. The volume of trash was disheartening. We think that next year all the filled bags should be displayed on the Green for a while to bring home to everyone the full impact and disgrace of the littering.

Board Education: Mary passed out copies of The Land Trust Alliance Fact Sheet (this info is on their web site too).

New Business:

Newsletter ideas: Auction news, call for items, introduce the new trees at Long Horizons, create some "can you identify this spot/landmark" photo contests, do some in-depth features on the less-known properties.

Event idea: Mary mentioned she had kayaked the length of Long Meadow Pond and it was gorgeous. It would be fun to have a kayak and canoe "armada" day on Long Meadow Pond, culminating in a visit to the Schwartz Preserve.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 . . . all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier