

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD MEETING
Minutes—June 12, 2013

Present: Lynn Baker, Doug Mahard, Mary Hawvermale, Jean Melita, Mark Miller, Stuart Rabinowitz, Anneke Rothman, Sandra Ruzicka, Carol Spier, Bob Ueberbacher; Chris Armentano

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

Secretary's report: The May minutes were approved with the addition of Anneke Rothman to the attendees.

Treasurer's report: Bob circulated the 2012 federal tax return and will proceed to file it.

Old Business:

Canfield Preserve: Sandy brought the sign in. Doug will install it (and N.B., he did and it looks terrific).

Sherlock: The results of the radon retest will be sent to Mary since Lynn will be away for the summer. The tenant reports a problem with the bathroom floor and Stuart will investigate repairs and retiling. Also the tenant has offered to replace the refrigerator, which once done, she will own.

Annual Appeal Letter: We agreed that the Spring/Summer newsletter will take the place of our usual annual appeal. Now that members/donors can pay online, it's not so critical that we provide a donation envelope, and the newsletter permits us to share much more information and is fun.

Bellamy Preserve: Doug received an amended, expanded proposal for cleaning the area along the stone wall from Scott Blum, Willow Brook Landscape Services, for \$2,125, to be discounted 10 percent if we wait until fall to have the work done. Also a bid from Matt Tansley, Brooks Landscaping, for \$10,635 for the same. A motion was made and approved to accept Scott's bid, with the start delay.

Doug and Mary led a walk through the preserve for CT Trails day. Doug has done tremendous stewardship in the last few months (a log of his work and walks follows).

Doug is planning to get an estimate for removing and chipping the dead trees along Munger Lane, which could fall on power lines.

Tom March has planted the field at the corner of Bellamy and Munger Lanes. He cannot cut the stumps (remaining from the trees he cut down) all the way to the ground because they are grown into the stone wall. We'd like him to cut them as low as possible without conflicting with the wall.

Fundraising Ideas:

Bike Trek: Stuart has explored the idea of a Bicycle Trek. He has mapped some routes of varying lengths that go past most of our properties. March Farm is very much in favor of participating, allowing their property, especially the parking area, to be used for staging. Suggested date is Saturday of Memorial Day weekend 2014. We would provide participants with T-shirts, and possibly a water bottle and snack. The entry fee would be ±\$40–\$50. Arrangements for police etc. would have to be made. Our newsletter can promote the event and also solicit volunteers to help. Prizes to be developed. Activities for non-riders to be developed.

A motion was made and passed that we move forward with this idea. Stuart will need help.

Art Show: Mary and Kristen, the curator at Bellamy Ferriday House, plan to organize some sort of art show for next summer.

New Business:

Bellamy Preserve: Mary is applying to Thomaston Savings Bank for a grant to rebuild a boardwalk bridge of approximately 150 running feet. Clark Gifford from Steep Rock will give an estimate for the labor, Stuart will get a materials bid from Home Depot.

The Bellamy Ferriday House needs additional parking for occasional large events. They would like to use the field they lease from us but will need to mow a path from the road to reach it. We agreed with the caveat there cannot be parking when the fields are wet and there should be a formal letter of agreement.

Risley Preserve: Someone has erected a deer stand on this property. Doug will dismantle it.

Motion to adjourn at 8:55 . . . all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier

THE BELLAMY BLOG
By Doug Mahard

MAY 13, 2013

To date I have scouted the entire Bellamy Preserve, started working on a new trail in the pine forest off the north west trail, started clearing downed and dead limbs from around the pond on the main trail along with the small pine stand to the south of the pond and piling branches on the side of the main trail for future chipping. Pulled garlic mustard plants along the main trail along with some burning bush. Started to reestablish trail connecting main trail to west trail. General pruning and cutting of vines growing up trees.

7 AM to 8 AM

Parked by graveyard, walked with Charlie on the east trail to main trail to connecting trail to west trail back to main trail with Charlie. Saw Sarah and her black Lab. Pulled up some garlic mustard and dragged fallen and pruned branches from small pine stand on west trail. Started branch pile in close proximity to gate along Munger Lane across from Ariola house.

1 PM to 3:30 PM

Met Matt Tansley from Brooks Landscaping for estimate to clear stonewall along Route 61.
Prune pine stand along southeast side trail. Pile brush.

MAY 14, 2013

7 AM to 9 AM

Parked at the Munger Lane gate and continued to trim dead branches from pine stand on the southern part of the east trail. Also piled brush. Cut poison ivy vines along north wall leading to barns and removed some saplings growing along the path. Charlie and I walked the east trail and down the main trail.

MAY 16, 2013

5:30 AM to 7:00 AM

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard. Piled brush and pruned in southeast corner pine stand. Misc. pruning and piling up the main trail to car.

MAY 18, 2013

3:00 to 4:00 PM

Parked at Munger Lane gate and walked with Charlie around the perimeter trails. Spectacular light coming in through the woods. Very beautiful day.

MAY 19, 2013

6:30 to 8:00 AM

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard and walked down the main trail. Did some pruning and brush piling just south of the pond. Headed north on the east trail trimming and piling brush. Thought it might be nice to have an elevated board walk over the part of the east trail where the trail, brook and stone wall all intersect.

MAY 20, 2013

6:30 to 9:30 AM

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard. Pruned and piled brush off the east trail. Came up the main trail and pruned and piled brush around the pond area. Met Christa and her dog, a long haired Sheppard puppy. Told her I was the steward and thanked her for enjoying the Bellamy.

MAY 21, 2013

12:30 to 2:30 PM

Charlie and I parked in the field along Route 61 and walked the stonewall pruning and marking trees to be cut and piled with brush by contractor yet to be hired. Found a pile of asphalt that was missed when horse farm across the street dug up their driveway and dumped it over the Bellamy wall. Walked back by bushwhacking through the northeast pine forest and connecting with the east trail, then heading south along the main trail back to the car. Amazing, no ticks and I had a short sleeve T-shirt on. Need new pruning blade.

MAY 22, 2013

8:30 to 9:30 AM

Charlie and I parked in the graveyard lot, said "Hello" to an older gentleman walking the graveyard and proceeded to pile brush around the pond and adjacent pine forest.

MAY 26, 2013

7:00 to 8:00 PM

Parked at Munger Lane gate and piled brush on the southern part of the east trail. Walked around the Ferriday property . Gorgeous!

MAY 27, 2013

8:30 to 12:00 AM

Charlie and I parked at the Munger Lane gate. Met Doug Green and his dog. He bought the house across the street from the gate. Carolyn Ferriday's maids house.

Cleared the right wall up to the stile boarding the Ferriday property. Cut the massive poison ivy vines on the opposite wall. Moved up the main trail trimming and piling brush.

Beautiful Memorial Day.

MAY 29, 2013

4:15 to 6:00 PM

Charlie and I parked at the Munger Lane gate. Pruned and piled brush along the main trail up to the pond.

May 31, 2013

6:15 to 9 AM

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard. Pruned and piled brush along the east trail.

JUNE 1, 2013

5:30 to 9:00 AM

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard. Walked down main trail. Pruned and piled brush around pond. Went back to car on north east trail. Pruned and piled brush on trail and around pine forest.

JUNE 2, 2013

8 to 10:30 AM

Met Mark Metcalf at the graveyard and proceeded to pine stand on northern part of the west trail. Cleared the southern stonewall of downed trees and saplings and a few along the back wall. Piled brush.

JUNE 5, 2013

6:30 to 8:30 AM

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard. Continued to clear new trail in the northwest pine stand.

Walked back along main trail misc. pruning along the way.

JUNE 10, 2013

1:30 to 3:30 PM

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard. Piled brush from the new trail in northwest pine forest.

JUNE 11, 2013

5:30 to 6:30 PM

Charlie and I parked at the graveyard and met Clark Gifford to give us an estimate for boardwalk over wetlands and stonewall area on the east trail. Approximately 150' of boardwalk.