

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD
Minutes—July 22, 2012
(with public invited, at Bellamy Ferriday House)

Call to Order: 12:00 p.m.

Present: Mary Hawvermale, Jean Melita, Stuart Rabinowitz, Anneke Rothman, Carol Spier, Bob Ueberbacher; Jack Nelson, Chris Armentano. (Bev Mosch was not able to attend the meeting but did attend for the program.)

Guests included Marcel and Gail Gros, Dan Carlinski, a young man named Justin. Two women from out of town and Woody Mosch came for the program.)

Secretary's report: The June minutes were approved.

Annual Meeting: Mary gave a brief update on BLT affairs:

We have received about 40 responses to the annual appeal letter, including a new membership from Eagle Electric and several expressions of interest in volunteering.

We continue to actively evaluate properties that meet our Land Acquisition Criteria.

An immediate goal is to establish and fill a Land Steward position—someone who will keep track of, organize, and oversee stewardship of our properties.

Stuart expressed thanks to Mary for her work as president of the BLT, reminding us it is a challenging, time-consuming, and sometimes thankless job.

Carol expressed thanks to Bob for handling the tedious responsibility of our finances.

Jack reminded us that the CT Forest and Park Association conducts a Trail Maintenance class every spring; he believes there is no charge. It teaches basic skills: what to look for, how to take care of various issues, and which tools to use and how to use them. Check their website for details.

Dan Carlinski, a BLT member, offered several suggestions for keeping members informed of board activities, including email blast announcements. Stuart reported that the new Web site should be ready for board review and comments shortly (NB, it is).

The Program: Naturalist John Himmelman gave an excellent and informative illustrated talk on insect life, peppered with anecdotes of his lifetime experiences and enthusiasms.

Old Business:

Still Hill property appraiser: *For the record:* On June 11, a motion was circulated via email to approve the quoted fee of \$475 for licensed appraiser Tyler O'Hazo to prepare a written appraisal of the 30-plus acres we are considering for acquisition. The motion was approved via email.

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier

