

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD
Minutes—September 12, 2012

Call to Order: 7:40 p.m.

Present: Lynn Baker, Mary Hawvermale, Bev Mosch, Stuart Rabinowitz, Anneke Rothman, Sandra Ruzicka, Steve Sabatini, John Swendsen, Carol Spier, Bob Ueberbacher; Chris Armentano.

Secretary's report: The August minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: There have been 51 responses to the membership appeal letter. Bob suggests we send another appeal. We'll reconsider this after the dinner/auction.

Old Business:

Land Acquisition:

A general discussion of how to proceed and whether we can find a way to acquire both the Still Hill and Cabbage Lane properties as well as an easement on the G. Assard farm property, which in principle we would like to do. Mary has had some discussion with Nancy McMillan of the town Open Space Commission and will continue to explore ways the BLT and the Commission could work together to preserve these properties.

Cabbage Lane property: In the event we decide to acquire this property, Stuart and Cynthia Rabinowitz will donate a corridor along the edge of their property to the BLT to provide good public access from Cabbage Lane. Bev will call the owner to see if she would consider donating one parcel were we to purchase the other at or near her asking price.

As an aside, Bob reports that the Inland Wetlands Commission is seeing an increase in permit requests for farming and related agricultural activities, particularly from some younger property owners—good news.

Stewardship updates:

Doug Mahard will take over as Steward of Bellamy Preserve now that Jack Nelson has moved away.

John Swendsen will assume the role of Land Manager, to keep track of stewardship overall and keep us informed of the status and needs of our properties. (This does not mean that John is responsible for maintaining everything!)

Sky Meadows: The pond on this property was once a water source for the fire department and it is possible we could arrange for the department to maintain access to it.

Website update: Carol is working with Marianne Greco to refine the new website. It includes a blog, which we currently do not have.

New Business:

Membership growth, fundraising, PR: We discussed various possible ways to expand membership and attract more substantial donations. Among the ideas tossed out:

- A mechanism whereby people can make an automatic monthly donation (as for Public Radio, etc.).
- We decided to take a booth at the upcoming **Garlic Festival** and have a giveaway of some sort to entice and thank people who join at the Festival. Steve suggested a small mechanical squirrel toy/premium that kids love; he will acquire a supply.
- Jean will take responsibility for a **newsletter**.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 . . . all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier