

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD MEETING
Minutes—September 11, 2013

Present: Lynn Baker, Mary Hawvermale, Doug Mahard, Jean Melita, Mark Miller, Beverley Mosch, Vera Rosa, Anneke Rothman, Sandra Ruzicka, Steve Sabatini, Carol Spier, John Swendsen, Bob Ueberbacher; Emily Eisen

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

Secretary's report: The August minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Insurance bills are coming due and there will be funds needed for printing and auction expenses. We need to increase our membership, for many reasons but especially for IRS purposes and cash flow.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting/Board Elections: The secretary presented the slate nominated to serve three-year terms on the Board: Stuart Rabinowitz, Sandra Ruzicka, and Carol Spier. Doug moved to approve the slate; John seconded the motion; the motion passed. The secretary presented the slate of current officers nominated to serve another one-year term: Mary Hawvermale, president; Stuart Rabinowitz, vice-president; Bob Ueberbacher, treasurer; Carol Spier, recording secretary; Lynn Baker, corporate secretary. Vera moved to approve the slate; Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Annual Appeal Letter/Newsletter: Carol and Jean are working on the newsletter/appeal letter to be mailed early in October at the latest. It will also serve as the “save the date” mailing for the auction. We discussed using this letter to introduce the Board members to the town, including a brief bio of each of us, and a group photo if possible. Everyone liked this idea. Carol will email a template for the bios; Doug will see if Tom Wilson will take a photo. Mary is arranging for the donation return envelope, which we will tuck into each letter.

Fundraising Ideas: Doug will follow up with the Woodhall School about using their facility for a fundraising concert in the spring. We discussed this could possibly be a cabaret, which would be fun. Jean proposed we put together a self-guided house tour, possibly at Christmas Festival time; this idea is worth exploring though several people felt the Christmas Festival is already congested and winter weather is not ideal for house tours, so another time might be better.

Long Horizons: John suggested we put a chain across the entry to the preserve to stop the quad riding. We discussed getting reflective “No Motorized Vehicle” signs to add to it and also for the Bellamy Preserve. John and Doug will follow up on this. Carol mentioned that Trish Traver had once sent us a CT state statute spelling out the restrictions and penalties for motor vehicle trespass on preserved properties; Carol will

forward to John and Doug. (N.B., done; and the penalties are considerable.) We can mention the restriction in a friendly way in the newsletter too.

Boardwalk Funds: Our grant request was declined by the Thomaston Savings Bank. Vera mentioned there is an Arval Hall grant funded by the First Church; she will investigate.

Motion to adjourn at 8:40 . . . all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier