

BETHLEHEM LAND TRUST BOARD MEETING
Minutes—December 11, 2013

Present: Emily Eisen, Mary Hawvermale, Doug Mahard, Jean Melita, Beverly Mosch, Stuart Rabinowitz, Vera Rosa, Anneke Rothman, Sandra Ruzicka, Steve Sabatini, Carol Spier, John Swendsen, Bob Ueberbacher;

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

Secretary's report: For the record, no minutes were prepared for the November meeting because it was devoted to details of the auction.

Treasurer's report: A preliminary assessment of the auction results indicate we netted about \$15,000.

Old Business:

Auction Evaluation and Thoughts for the Future: Overall the feeling is the event went well and people really enjoyed it. Some board members consider this event primarily a way to thank the community, and secondarily a fund raiser.

Perhaps next year we should raise the ticket price from \$65 to \$75 but have an open bar until dinner is served, and also place a bottle each of red and white wine on every table. This should speed up bar service and loosen up attendees so bidding is better. Profit on the bar is about \$600 so this would not be a particularly large expense.

It would be nice to work in visuals and other information about our properties. Perhaps some video or similar, with scrolling loops of photos.

Canfield mortgage: Payment of the interest on the outstanding \$35,000 is due. A motion was made and approved that we pay \$15,000 principal plus the \$350 interest before the end of the year.

Cabbage Lane Property: Mary asked Stuart to speak to the owner of two lots on Cabbage Lane that the Land Acquisition Committee considered two years ago. There is a possibility the price on this property could be more attractive at this time. Bev will look at comparable sales and follow up.

New Business:

Planter's Choice Nursery: Planter's Choice is donating 30 trees to be divided among the Town of Bethlehem, the Conservation Commission, and the BLT. The trees will be wintered over and in the spring we will decide where to plant ours and arrange to plant them.

Web site and social media: We'd like to maximize the potential of the web site; Carol will try to get more things posted after the holidays. We are at this time reluctant to get involved in Facebook. We will however join Community Clock, the new local online calendar.

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

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Spier