



South Burlington Land Trust Board Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2019

Northfield Savings Bank, Shelburne Road, South Burlington

Present: Sarah Dopp, Michael Mittag, Penne Tompkins, Duncan Murdoch, Rosanne Greco, Karen Ryder

Absent: Allan Strong, Sophie Mazowita, Betty Milizia

Guests: Katie Rose Leonard, Fay Blackmer

Katie Rose and Fay, the two farmers recently hired for Common Roots, gave the board an overview of Common Roots' plans for the coming season. Primary planting this summer will be potatoes and root crops. Including the Underwood and South Village fields, 30% more land will be planted. This year programs will be expanded: Farm to Fork, chef workshops and additional programs at Wheeler House. The Farm Stand will continue operation. Common Roots hopes to be self-sustaining by 2024. Currently, the farm is in need of fencing to keep deer and other animals out of the crops. The fencing is priced at approximately \$1200. Sarah will contact Carol McQuillen about SBLT underwriting this item as it was unclear from the farmers' presentation if Common Roots was requesting these funds from SBLT.

Michael presented the membership and financial report. There are currently 102 members. Despite the stock market drop at the end of the year, our investment account earned \$1623 in 2018.

The board discussed moving the membership and fiscal year into alignment. Following a brief discussion, Penne made a motion to move the membership year to begin in January to coincide with the fiscal year. Karen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

A few months of minutes had not been approved or distributed. The November and January minutes were OK. Rosanne moved that the November minutes be approved. Karen seconded. The motion carried. Sarah moved to approve the January minutes, Duncan seconded, and the motion carried. Penne will send the September minutes to the Board and ask for approval via email. She will also update the minutes on the SBLT website. All sets of minutes approved recently (Sept., Oct., Nov. and Jan.) need to be distributed to the membership.

The Board continued planning for our April 7 annual meeting. The meeting will be held at the Ridgewood Community room from 6:00-8:00 pm. It was agreed that Sophie will be the featured speaker given her work on the Field Naturalist Program and tracking groups this year. Possible annual award winner for this year were identified and discussed. Tasks for the group were assigned including publicity and calendar listings. Three positions for 3 year board terms are up for re-election, Sarah's, Karen's and Allan's. All are willing to continue. There is one vacancy for a two year term.

A funding request for the Master Naturalist Program was discussed. Decision postponed for more clarification. The Common Roots group seems to want to ask for a grant but the request was not explicit. Sarah will contact Carol McQuillen for clarity. Penne made a motion that an amount up to \$1500 for

fencing and other expenses be approved once the request is clear. Rosanne seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sarah reported that the Regional Conservation Partnership which is coordinating conservation efforts in bordering towns has had one meeting. An additional meeting is planned with invitations to additional parties. Sarah will attend on March 27.

Michael gave a report on the previous evening's meeting of the TDR Committee which is one of the Interim Zoning committees which he chairs.

Sarah and Rosanne will be meeting with Alan Long to further discuss conservation efforts for land on Spear St. Sarah will meet with Paul Conner to determine the current status of the Ewing conservation. The Wheeler conservation easement seems to still be in limbo. Michael will contact Kevin Dorn for an update.

Penne announced that her current work schedule and additional volunteer responsibilities preclude her continuing as a Board member. She offered to continue some of her publicity, communications and website work.

Sarah was asked to reconvene the subcommittee working on prioritizing conservation properties, since the full board did not have time within the meeting to complete the work.

The next SBLT meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27 at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ryder
Secretary