

Foster Land Trust minutes
April 7, 2015

Foster Land Trust (FLT)
Eddy Building
Foster, RI 02825

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

In attendance: Linda Los Tibbetts, Chair; Myra Mercier, Vice-Chair; Walter May, Treasurer; Kristen Cole, Secretary; and Bill Fortier. Mike Carpenter and Chris Iozzi were absent.

Minutes: The minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved with no changes. Minutes from the January executive session were approved and will be sealed until matters discussed in session are concluded. Minutes from February were not available and will be reviewed at the next meeting. There was no meeting in March due to a storm.

Correspondence: There was a request for the best FLT properties on which to snowshoe; **Spencer and Hopkins** are the best but the parking lots are not plowed in winter so there could be difficulty accessing. We also got a request and survey asking about FLT environmental policies; this was forwarded to the RI Land Trust Council. The RI Historic Preservation Conference is being held on April 25 in Gloucester. There will be an antiques auction to benefit Border's Farm on May 30 at the property.

Grants: 2014 Local Open Space Grant: The appraisal from Scotti and Assoc. will be completed soon and will be forwarded to the realtor. The existing survey on file is not adequate, so Scituate Surveys will conduct the survey once a purchase and sales agreement is signed. Myrna has researched the Murray title and it is clear. The **Hayfield** management plan is ready for review; email any changes to Linda.

Stewardship: Nothing new to report at the properties due to winter snow. **Tullis/Bockoven** needs to have a survey done in order to conduct a sale.

Dennis Therrien was in attendance, he is an outdoorsman and licensed trapper with ideas about how to help manage some of the FLT properties to better attract desirable wildlife (including ground-nesting birds like pheasant, partridge, grouse) and control the habitat. He has offered to help create a plan that includes improving access, assessing parking solutions, creating educational opportunities and making suggestions for best use of properties. He also suggests selectively clearing some areas. FLT should consider selective logging; will need to revise some of our management plans to allow for this type of management. Mark Tremblay is working on a forestry plan for **Hayfield**. Walter made a motion to nominate Dennis Therrien as the FLT Volunteer Wildlife and Habitat Manager. Myra seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial: Walter reports that finances are being kept liquid pending the potential Murray purchase. Regarding the budget for financial town meeting; we will not be requesting anything new, the budget is flat. Walter is getting a quote for increased liability insurance coverage for the properties.

Liaison reports: No reports.

Public relations: The Northwest RI Supporters of Open Space are looking for a project this spring. The **Hayfield** trail is marked and needs to be trimmed and cleaned. (about 2 miles) **Hopkins** needs some signage to direct hikers around the Providence Water Supply Board signs. **Spencer** trail needs to be marked, but Ray Najecki has offered to do this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Since the Financial Town Meeting is being held on May 5, the next FLT meeting will be held on May 12 at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole