

## **Foster Land Trust minutes**

**October 4, 2016**

Foster Land Trust (FLT)

Eddy Building

Foster, RI 02825

The meeting got underway at 7:06 p.m.

Those in attendance: Linda Los Tibbetts, Chair; Myra Mercier, Vice Chair; Walter May, Treasurer; Kristen Cole, Secretary; Dennis Therrien. Mike Carpenter was excused.

Bill Fortier has resigned from the FLT, due to other commitments. Kristen will send a card on behalf of the Board to Bill thanking him for his service. The members discussed recommending someone to the Council to take Bill's place, possibly Tom Boyden. Walter will contact Tom to see if he's interested.

**Minutes:** The August and September minutes passed unanimously on a motion from Walter and second from Kristen.

**Public comment:** No one from the public was in attendance.

**Old business:** We are adding witch hazel harvesting into the **Hayfield** management plan. Linda has not submitted this to RI DEM, but we can move forward with harvesting since its part of the FLT overall forest management plan, and also a generally accepted practice in many places.

Dennis had previously discussed the North/South Trail with Ed Schernau from the Conservation Commission, and how it could be extended to include Border's Farm. There is nothing further at this time.

The closing for the **additional Spencer property** is taking place on October 11. There is \$50,000 due for the purchase plus \$2,226 in unpaid taxes. Fees should total about \$300.

**Stewardship:** Dennis replaced the grate in the culvert at **Spencer** pond, and cleared trees in the parking area to accommodate 4-5 more vehicles. The area is ready for gravel that will be delivered in a few weeks. He also reports that the beaver dam at **Hopkins** is getting larger, still keeping an eye on it. At Pole 54 near **Hayfield**, we can clear brush to fit 5-6 more vehicles for parking there.

There was a discussion about the lot lines for **Tikkanen**. The FLT wants to engage in witch hazel harvesting there, but the boundaries seem inaccurate. Myra will research the deed to see if there is anything in the description to help.

**Financial:** Walter reported paying David Hopkins for mowing/clearing at the **Dunbar** property. FLT also received checks totaling \$2,291.75 for witch hazel harvesting at **Grass**. These funds go into the stewardship account.

There was a discussion about purchasing bonds, and how the treasurer needs the ability to move quickly to make purchase decisions on those; getting approval at the monthly meetings is usually too late and opportunities are missed. Linda made a motion to give Walter, in his capacity as Treasurer, the authority to reinvest bonds as they come due, in the best interests of the FLT. The bonds should be rated A or better, and be insured. This authorization must be reviewed and reauthorized each year – the FLT will need to revisit in October of 2017. Myra seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Please note: After checking previous meeting notes, the FLT has granted prior authorization as follows. The difference now is that it is granted for one year, and must be reauthorized:**

Sept. 3, 2013: Walter made a motion to request permission to purchase municipal bonds if the right opportunity arises. The purchase limit is \$5,000 and the bonds must be rated A or better, and be insured. Myra seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Oct. 7, 2014: Kristen made a motion giving Walter authorization to purchase bonds at his discretion to benefit the FLT, as long as the investments do not cause the stewardship account balance to fall below \$30,000, and the bonds must be rated A or above. Bill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Grants:** Nothing new to report.

**Liaison reports:** No new reports.

**Public relations:** The Northwest Rhode Island Supporters of Open Space (NRISOS) is sponsoring a guided walk at **Spencer** in December. They are also holding a fundraiser at Bella on October 21 to benefit their group. There was a motion by Walter with second from Myra to allow reimbursement for any FLT Board member who purchases a ticket to attend the fundraiser, since this is a charitable event. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. The next meeting will be held on November 1, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole