

Foster Land Trust minutes

January 17, 2017

Foster Land Trust (FLT)

Eddy Building

Foster, RI 02825

The meeting got underway at 7:05 p.m.

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

Minutes: The December minutes passed unanimously on a motion from Walter and 2nd from Tom.

Public comment: No members of the public in attendance.

Old business: Dennis reports walking Border's Farm to identify potential new areas for the North/South Trail. The FLT Walker property is also a possibility. Dennis coordinated with Ed Schernau from the Conservation Commission and Eric – the new farm manager at Borders.

As information: The non-profit North South Trail Council is a membership organization whose dues support the development and maintenance of the trail. Ginny Leslie at the Department of Environmental Management is listed as a contact at 222-4700, extension 4309.

New business: We need to have elections for FLT Board of Trustees next month.

Stewardship: Walter reported several items:

- **Hayfield:** A new sign has been installed.
- **Grass:** Brush has been cut around the pond, and a tree that was near a neighbor's house has been removed.
- **Spencer:** The dam is still flowing well, with no new beaver activity. We need to work on the ditch that is washing out some areas of the trail near the beach. We also need to mark the boundaries for the new property that was purchased.
- **Hopkins:** The gate is still secure; no new beaver activity.
- **Dunbar:** No new beaver activity.

Financial: Walter received the year-end report today. The capital account balance as of 12/31/16 is \$135,628 and the stewardship account as of the same date is \$58,440. This includes \$15,000 that will be invested in bonds. FLT has earned \$39,787 from witch hazel harvesting since 2009. The conveyance taxes earned in 2016 total \$51,027.

There was a general discussion about the possibility of limiting the number of new acres that the FLT purchases – the FLT is stewarding approximately 1,000 acres currently – should we cap this at a certain number? Are we at the limit of what FLT can manage? The property is currently being managed by

volunteers but at some point, as the land is used more and for more purposes, FLT may need to consider a more robust management solution.

Grants: Linda is not working on any grants until after the school year is over. There is a trails grant for printed maps that FLT can apply for during the summer. FLT can take advantage of a volunteer grant from “Crew in your Community” for maintenance – possibly pulling weeds in the pond at Grass – during July/August.

Liaison reports: Mike reports that the Planning Board is meeting to discuss the comprehensive plan and the capital budget. Dennis reports that the Conservation Commission is working on a potential connection for the North/South Trail with Borders Farm (see old business). No report for Housing Board.

Public relations: Nothing new to report. Linda and Kristen will get in touch with Lily Feinstein from NWRISOS this summer to begin developing a web site with property information, maps, hours, land use guidelines, etc.

Correspondence: The usual from RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust.

Future agenda items: Rhett Bishop, Building and Zoning Inspector for the town, would like to make a proposal regarding bow hunting on some FLT properties during the next meeting. FLT will review rules and guidelines from the Gloucester Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy, which apparently allow bow hunting on some properties with restrictions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 7, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole