

Foster Land Trust minutes
February 7, 2017

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

The meeting got underway at 7:03 p.m.

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

Minutes: The January minutes passed unanimously on a motion from Walter and 2nd from Mike.

Public comment: Chris Stone, vice-president of the Foster Town Council was in attendance.

Presentation about bow hunting: Canceled – we will add this to the April agenda.

Election of Officers: The following were elected to one-year terms (March 2017 – February 2018) on a motion from Kristen that was seconded by Mike:

- a. Linda Los Tibbetts, Chair
- b. Myra Mercier, Vice-Chair
- c. Walter May, Treasurer
- d. Kristen Cole, Secretary

Old business: Mike commented on the [Democratic Rules of Order](#) that the FLT needs to review and adopt at the next meeting. There are copies available at Town Hall.

New business: There was general discussion about the new gravel operation being proposed on Mt. Hygeia Road (formerly Black Forest Farms, near intersection with Rt. 6). The land does not abut any FLT properties, but does abut more than 30 residential properties. The property is about 40 acres and there are plans to potentially remove one million cubic yards of material using what can be considered industrial methods like hydraulic hammers and explosives. Gravel operations are permitted under agricultural zoning in Foster, but the scope and methods for producing gravel have significantly changed since the regulations were written, with more invasive and aggressive methods now being used. There is a final Planning Board meeting on February 15 before the matter moves to the Zoning Board. The Planning Board is considering attaching special provisions to the recommendation and would like to hear from members of the public and town boards and commissions.

Stewardship: There was general discussion about lot lines and boundaries, and the acreage listed at town hall for many properties (not just FLT, but properties in general) is frequently incorrect. In addition we discussed:

- **Spencer West:** This is the property that was recently acquired. On a motion from Tom and second from Dennis it is officially called **Spencer West** to differentiate it from the original

Spencer property. Walter, Tom and Dennis recently marked the boundaries along Paine Road with ribbons and will follow up by adding the metal tags this spring.

- **Spencer:** No new beaver activity.
- **Hopkins:** No new beaver activity.
- **Dunbar:** No new beaver activity.
- **Martins:** There is an issue with finding the lot lines for this property; we'll need to identify the boundaries.
- **Hopkins:** Still having issues with Providence Water Supply Board throwing people off FLT property. This is an ongoing issue although it has been addressed with them.

Financial: Walter has purchased a Maine Housing Bond for \$9,775 with AAA rating at 3.6% interest.

Grants: Nothing new to report.

Liaison reports: Planning Board is meeting on February 15 for final discussion/action on the Black Forest Farms property before it moves to the Zoning Board. Nothing new to report from Conservation Commission or Housing Board.

Public relations: Nothing new to report.

Correspondence: The usual from RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust.

Future agenda items: Possible discussion about muzzle hunting at a future meeting (*see Gloucester Land Trust rules*). Possible proposal to clean up town roads as part of Earth Day (*this is usually managed by the Conservation Commission, but possibly a partnership?*)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 7, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole