

## **Foster Land Trust minutes**

**March 7, 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; Myra Mercier, Vice-Chair; Walter May, Treasurer; Kristen Cole, Secretary; Dennis Therrien; and Tom Boyden. Mike Carpenter was excused.

**Minutes:** The February minutes passed unanimously on a motion from Walter and 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tom.

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

**Old business:** The [Democratic Rules of Order](#) was reviewed and adopted on a motion from Myra and 2<sup>nd</sup> from Walter. The motion passed unanimously. Everyone received a copy for future reference.

**New business:** There was general discussion about muzzle hunting and primitive arms season that is allowed on Gloucester Land Trust property. Dennis wanted to make the point that muzzle hunting and primitive arms do not necessarily translate to safer or more humane methods of hunting. These weapons are not as accurate and powerful as modern weapons but can cause animals to become seriously wounded rather than killing them quickly. The same argument applies to long bows and compound bows, with compound bows being more powerful and accurate in general. Dennis wants to make this point since FLT will be discussing the possibility of allowing limited hunting on some properties. There is a lot to consider there since FLT primarily wants to make the properties safe for hiking/equestrian use. We could consider opening specific properties for limited time frames and/or limiting the types of weapons used. There is a presentation about bow hunting at next month's meeting and we will revisit the topic, taking the next few months to discuss and potentially make recommendations. We could also contact the town solicitor (Mark Tourgee) to get an opinion.

**Stewardship:** There was brief discussion about:

- **Spencer West:** Tom cleared the spillway culvert which had become clogged with debris.
- **Tikkanen/Martins:** Dennis is exploring the boundary lines.

**Financial:** Walter reported that there was a budget hearing on March 2 and the Town Council accepted the FLT operational budget which is the same as previous years, and is also self-funded.

**Grants:** Linda will reach out to the "Crew in Your Community" group of volunteers to conduct a one-day or one weekend project on the Grass property to clear out the pond weeds. We agreed to aim for the second weekend in July.

**Liaison reports:** From the Conservation Commission, Dennis reports that there is a 10-ton waiver for disposing of tires at the Johnston landfill on Earth Day only. The Foster DPW needs to apply for the

waiver, so it might not happen for this year but now that the town is aware this can be pursued for next year. The Planning Board Meeting on February 15 about the proposed gravel pit on Mt. Hygeia Road resulted in a negative recommendation from Planning to Zoning. Planning also recommended several stipulations if the project should move forward. The Zoning Board will meet about the project tomorrow evening, March 8. It was also noted that Julianna King, town planner, is leaving Foster for a job in Richmond.

**Public relations:** Kristen will write up an article about the Dunbar and Spencer West properties for publication in April or May.

**Correspondence:** There was an email from the RI Land Trust Council about the Land & Water Conservation Summit taking place on March 11 at URI.

**Future agenda items:** Presentation about bow hunting with Rhett Bishop next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 4, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole