

Foster Land Trust minutes

April 4, 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; Mike Carpenter; Dennis Therrien; and Tom Boyden.

Minutes: There was a change to the March minutes – under new business, the sentence: “The same argument applies to long bows and **compound** bows, with **compound** bows being more powerful and accurate in general.” Changes are underlined. The minutes passed unanimously on a motion from Walter and 2nd from Myra.

Public comment: No public comments.

Presentation about bow hunting: Rhett Bishop presented to the FLT about his experiences bow hunting on properties managed by the Narrow River Land Trust (North Kingstown – Casey Preserve) and Gloucester Land Trust. He reported that archers must take a bow hunter safety course mandated by RI DEM in order to hunt on those properties. There is a small community of bow hunters, and in his experience the group is respectful of the rules and mindful of hikers and others enjoying the properties for passive recreation.

Old business: Ongoing discussion about bow hunting. Several FLT members are in favor of allowing limited bow hunting on select FLT properties, possibly Tikkanen and Hayfield. Both of these properties are currently restricted from hunting due to the grants used to purchase the properties, but waivers could be granted. Limitations the FLT could consider include keeping the hunting season shorter, from September 15 – January 31. There is a lot to consider before moving forward to allow limited bow hunting:

- **Consider what FLT is trying to accomplish.** Allowing bow hunting is appealing because it expands property use and promotes good land management practice (controlling the deer population). But it might also discourage passive recreational use for those concerned about hiking during hunting season.
- **Think through management issues.** FLT needs to consider management and safety issues, including alerting police, fire and rescue operations if hunting is to be allowed. Expanding property use in this way impacts them and they should ultimately be brought into the discussion.
- **Policies and regulations.** FLT would need to consider what policies and regulations to put into place for the benefit of Foster residents and those using the properties. FLT can be more restrictive than state guidelines if needed.

- Which properties are best suited for bow hunting? FLT should restrict bow hunting to one or two properties that are best suited. For example, Hayfield has well-marked trails and this could be a benefit since hikers will know where to safely walk. However, other properties do not yet have marked trails, and for that reason could be better for hunting since hikers do not typically use those properties.

We will continue this discussion during a working session next month.

New business: Nothing to discuss.

Stewardship: Dennis reports that the boundaries at **Martins** and **Tikkanen** have been marked. There is a trail marked at **Tikkanen**, and there are a couple of trees to clear there. He reports no beaver or ATV activity at **Spencer** or **Hopkins**. Trees have been cleared from the trail at **Hopkins**, and there is one tree to remove from the trail at **Hayfield**.

Financial: Nothing new to report.

Grants: Nothing new to report.

Liaison reports: Nothing new to report.

Public relations: Kristen has written an article for the Foster Home Journal about the Dunbar and Spencer West acquisitions; it will appear in the May issue.

Correspondence: There was additional correspondence from Andrea Bugbee, wife of James Wang, Jr., about the possibility of donating property located at Plot 18 Lot 30 on Hartford Pike. This was discussed during executive session last month. There was no interest in the property from the Board, but some additional questions are being asked about suitability for a solar project on the property. There may be further discussion at a future meeting.

Future agenda items: Working session next month to continue the discussion about bow hunting. The date of the FLT meeting will be moved due to the Financial Town Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Kristen will contact everyone with the new date for the May meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole