

Foster Land Trust minutes

May 8, 2017

Foster Land Trust (FLT)

Eddy Building

Foster, RI 02825

The meeting got underway at 7:10 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 minutes from April passed unanimously.

Public comment: No public comments.

Working session about bow hunting: Dennis brought some suggested bow hunting regulations and we went through them and made some changes. **The regulations are listed at the bottom of these minutes.** On a motion from Walter and second from Myra, the amended version was accepted unanimously.

Next there was a discussion about which properties would be most suitable for bow hunting if FLT decides to approve bow hunting. The board would likely choose one or two properties only for a trial run. The following properties were discussed:

- **Schneider / Sainio / La Polla / Delvecchio:** Located on the North/South Trail between Route 6 and Shippee Schoolhouse Road, these parcels combine to more than 450 acres. Pros: A large amount of acreage with a lot of deer. Cons: With the N/S trail, bow hunting could be a deterrent to hikers. Also, the boundaries are not yet marked on some of these properties, so that could be confusing to the hunters.
- **Hayfield:** Located on Winsor Road totaling about 101 acres. Pros: A large parcel with a lot of deer. Cons: With the newly blazed trails, bow hunting could be a deterrent for hikers. On the other hand, the trails would mean the hunters know to steer clear of the marked trails.
- **Grass:** Located at 12 Shippee Schoolhouse Road and totals 85 acres.
- **Hopkins:** Located on the southerly side of Danielson Pike and the easterly side of Rams Tail Road and totaling about 24 acres. Might be too small an area.
- **Tikkannen / Martins:** Located on Kennedy Road and totaling about 52 acres. Might be too small an area?

FLT would need to obtain waivers on some of these properties if they were acquired in conjunction with Nature Conservancy, Audubon, or other third parties that have a say in their land management. We will continue the discussion about suitable properties at the June meeting.

The Board also discussed the need for public comment on this issue, aiming for an article in the June issue of Foster Home Journal to ask for public input during the July meeting. We also discussed how to

measure success, if the Board decides to allow bow hunting at a particular property, how would we know if it was successful in meeting the objectives – those being deer management, and providing additional/expanded uses of FLT properties. And finally, we discussed the potential length of a bow hunting season, probably running from November through January. We will continue to discuss all of these issues at the next couple of meetings.

Stewardship: Dennis reports that there is some brush cutting to be done, but the trail around the **Tikkannen** property has been flagged and is ready to be blazed. It will eventually connect with **Martins**. **Dunbar** is ready for blazing, and he will mark the boundaries soon. At **Hayfield**, he is blazing perimeter trails with the help of Ruth and Joe Stemp (volunteers). The **Hayfield** boundaries are almost completed. At **Spencer West**, a loop trail is partially flagged. There is a shelter at the pond that probably needs to be repaired or removed.

Dennis also brought up a point about survey stakes – the steel stakes FLT is currently using are very hard to find after a few years when the paint wears off. There are fiberglass stakes available that are easy to see in bright orange and the color won't wear off.

Correspondence: The usual correspondence from the Trust.

Future agenda items: Continue the bow hunting discussion next month. FLT is planning to continue discussions and would like to hear from residents at the July meeting to see what they think about it. FLT would aim to vote on the matter in August or September.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS A NEW DATE FOR THE JULY MEETING. DUE TO THE HOLIDAY FLT WILL MEET ON MONDAY, JULY 10.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole

HUNTING REGULATIONS FOR FOSTER LAND TRUST PROPERTIES (*approved 5.8.17*)

Applies to bow hunting only – no other types of hunting are currently permitted.

- Hunting is permitted on designated Foster Land Trust (FLT) properties only. Each year these locations will be announced prior to the start of the bow hunting season.
- HUNTING IS LIMITED TO ARCHERY ONLY. All forms of archery are allowed. The use of long bows, recurve, compound and cross bows is permitted. Hunters must abide by all State of Rhode Island deer hunting laws for Zone 2 regulations. Hunters must comply with Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) bow hunting rules (see regulations at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/documents/regulations/index.php#hunting-fishing>) for bow minimum draw weight requirements and broad-based requirements.
- All hunters must adhere to RI DEM archery hunting regulations including licensing, bag limits, tagging and hours of hunting, and must refrain from prohibited deer hunting activities. Some examples of prohibited activities include use of electronic calls, feeding and baiting. Please see the RI DEM web site (at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/index.php>) for a complete list of prohibited activities.
- A valid hunting license and bow hunting tag must be in the hunter's possession at all times while on the designated FLT properties.
- The construction of permanent tree stands is prohibited. The use of nails, spikes, bolts or devices that may damage trees is prohibited. Hunting from tree stands is allowed, preferably using ladder stands. The hunter's name, address and phone number must be attached to the tree stand. Tree stands may be installed three (3) days before the start of archery season and must be removed no later than three (3) days after the season ends. Remove them or lose them. Failure to comply with these rules will result in immediate termination of hunting privileges at designated FLT properties.
- Archery hunting season typically runs from September through January in accordance with RI DEM policies, however the FLT reserves the right to shorten the season and if so, will post those dates on the Town of Foster Web site.
- No firearms are allowed on FLT properties at any time.
- No alcohol is allowed on FLT properties at any time.
- No littering. Please abide by "carry in, carry out" policies.

- Hunters must be cognizant that others are using the FLT properties on maintained trails. Hikers, bicyclists, equestrian riders and others may be using trails so be careful. Access to hunting locations is allowed on the trails but tree stands must be at least 100 feet from all trails.
- Safety should be the primary concern for all hunters. Please use safety harnesses while in tree stands. Always be a responsible hunter and follow the safety rules at all times. Be courteous to others using the FLT properties. For everyone's safety always travel to and from your stands with an empty bow.