

Foster Land Trust minutes

July 10, 2017

Foster Land Trust (FLT)

Eddy Building

Foster, RI 02825

The meeting got underway at 7:12 p.m.

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

Minutes: The minutes from June passed unanimously.

Public comment: Bruce Colwell and John Tory were present to speak in favor of bow hunting. Bruce is in favor of allowing bow hunting to help control the deer population, and also to allow for a greater variety of suitable activities on FLT properties.

Old business: Bow hunting: Walter contacted RI DEM, the Champlin Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, and all are in favor of allowing bow hunting. Walter also mentioned that FLT is exempt from liability for bow hunting as long as hunters are in compliance with RI DEM regulations. FLT will have to amend and/or create new management plans for **Hopkins, Tikkanen/Martins**, and **Grass** to reflect that bow hunting is being allowed on those properties. Walter will also contact Fran Grass to make sure she is okay with bow hunting on that property.

There was a discussion about an archery permit form that Dennis created. Those seeking permits for hunting will need to contact Walter, Dennis or Tom directly by email or phone. Anyone seeking a permit would have to show proof of having a hunting license issued by RI DEM, and a bow hunting tag also issued by RI DEM. FLT bow hunting permits will need to be displayed on the dashboard when hunters are on the designated properties. Kristen can update the FLT archery permit form with the town seal. It was decided not to post the form on the town web site for better control of issuing the permits, but we can add the contact information for Walter, Dennis and Tom with assistance from the Town Clerk.

There was a motion from Walter and second from Myra to cap the number of FLT bow hunting permits at 25 for FLT properties this year. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no discussion or decision about the dates for the bow hunting season on designated FLT properties – this will be discussed at the next meeting.

New business: There was no discussion about the trail map at Hayfield, since Tom was not present.

Stewardship: Walter reports that Linda has been unable to get the “Crew in your Community” volunteer group to clear the pond at **Grass**. They are now charging a \$500 application fee. We will see about getting other volunteers. There is a new parking area at **Tikkanen**, and the gate is being moved. Tom

marked a trail at **Spencer** down to the river. **Spencer West** now has two trails blazed and flagged, with parking across from the gate. Next, new parking will be created on the same side as the property there.

Financial: Walter has purchased a new bond for NY Presbyterian Hospital for \$7,000 with an interest rate of 4.76%. Coupons in August and February. The insurance premium has also been paid. The FLT state permit for tax exempt status is due, and FLT needs to pay for mowing at Dunbar and Spencer.

Liaison report: No report from Mike on Planning. Conservation Commission and Housing have not met.

Public relations: There was no discussion about where to hold Land Trust Days activities. We will discuss next meeting.

Correspondence: The usual correspondence from the Trust.

Future agenda items: Decide dates for the FLT bow hunting season. Discuss permanent trail map at Hayfield. Discuss locations, dates for Foster Land Trust Days activities. Discuss engaging volunteers to clean up the pond at Grass (Could this be a Boy Scout project?)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole