

Foster Land Trust minutes
September 1, 2015

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance: Linda Los Tibbetts, Chair; Myra Mercier, Vice-Chair; Walter May, Treasurer; Kristen Cole, Secretary; Bill Fortier; Mike Carpenter. Chris Iozzi was absent.

From the public, Dennis Therrien (FLT Volunteer Wildlife and Habitat Manager), Roy Najecki (Glocester Land Trust, RI LTC and RI DEM), and Mike Perreira of Plainfield Pike were in attendance.

Minutes: Minutes from the August meeting were unanimously approved with no changes.

Old Business: The Murray property officially closed yesterday; Michael Bonds is the purchaser. FLT has had no word from the group of neighbors that attended the August meeting to propose a counter-offer and additional funding. Walter will submit the expense for half of the appraisal cost to DEM for reimbursement. There was discussion about the new owner possibly being interested in sub-dividing the property, and maybe selling a portion of it to FLT. With this possibility open, Walter will contact DEM to see if we can have the grant deadline extended to explore that option.

Stewardship: Roy has finished blazing trails (blue/yellow/orange) at **Hayfield** in preparation for the Land Trust Days walk happening on Sept. 20. He reports that the trails still need pruning and trimming, but they are in pretty good shape for the walk. He is recommending that we revisit the Ponagansett HS loop trail at some point, to clarify it by adding more trail markers. He has flagged the trail but we should get the students to return to complete it. Walter will contact the new teacher who is taking on responsibility for the project to see when they might be able to do this. Roy also reports that some of the boundaries along the DEM/FLT property line at Hayfield are not marked as indicated on the survey; there are no monuments or rods. And he reported seeing 3 new hunting stands on the property; we will have to dismantle them. At the walk that Roy led at Hayfield on Aug. 23, there were 15 participants

Regarding **Spencer**, Roy has found that there is no right of way near the house that FLT was hoping to acquire, and so no chance to connect the Spencer trail with the Carpenter property trail that is owned by RI Fish & Wildlife. However F&W will install signage for their “newly discovered” trail (for parking and about wearing orange during hunting season) and will improve the parking area. At Spencer, Roy has tentatively flagged a trail for marking.

Mike suggests that FLT consider adding the marked trails to an overlay on a standard scale map, since that would be helpful to other boards in town, and also would be helpful as FLT applies for future grants. It also helps us to increase visibility for the properties, makes it easier to understand placement/access and post online. It is increasingly important to make opportunities to enjoy the protected spaces more visible for the public.

Regarding the **Dunbar** property, David Hopkins contacted Walter to offer mowing services for \$200. There is also autumn olive on the property that needs to be eradicated. As a condition for gifting the property to FLT, we will install signage in memory of Morris Dunbar, calling the property Murray Dunbar Acres. The sign being proposed is 2x3, pressure treated and maintenance-free, and costs \$1,200. Myra made a motion to approve the purchase, with a second from Bill. The motion passed unanimously. Walter will purchase and install the sign.

Financial: Walter reports that as of July 31, the stewardship account holds \$44,855.73; the capital account holds \$125,753.48. This does not include recent expenses for paying the outstanding taxes on the Dunbar property.

Liaison reports: Housing Board meets next week; nothing new to report from Planning. No report from Conservation Commission.

Public relations: The FLT / Rhode Island Land Trust Days guided walk at **Hayfield** is being held on Sept. 20 at 10 a.m. There is no rain date. Roy Najecki will lead the walk and volunteers from NWRISOS will provide water and post signs.

Correspondence: The sympathy card to Frances Grass on behalf of FLT was sent to her on Aug. 9.

The Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5) re: a potential property donation discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. The next FLT meeting will be held on October 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole