

APRIL 3, 2018

FOSTER LAND TRUST MINUTES

Foster Land Trust (FLT)

B. Eddy Building

Foster, RI 02825

The meeting got underway at 7:15.

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

Minutes: The minutes for March 6, 2018 passed unanimously with one correction. Financial statement words were changed from "approved by", to "submitted to".

Public Comment: Neal Walsh of Paine Road commented that the Spencer West Parking Area was affecting his driveway which is across the street. Vehicles were not parking far enough off the road. Position of the roadside parking was by Foster Dept. of Public Works and took into consideration safety regarding road curves/line of sight. Mr. Walsh and FLT Trustees will monitor the area this hiking season to determine what specifically interferes with the driveway.

New Business:

- **Haying Contract** with Mr. Keith Moffat expires May, 2018. Performance evaluation discussion included the excellent in-kind stewardship he has provided FLT by maintaining the grassy slope by the Spencer Pond. He also installed sturdy, visually-appealing fencing and gate at Tikkanen which allows for increased parking space yet protects the fields from mis-use. He has provided oral reports regarding hay quantity and quality. FLT notes that a written account of soil tests and improvements must be provided for our own records. The contract was renewed for another 5-year period.
- **Management Plans:** tabled

Old Business:

- **Election of Officers:** A Motion made by Walt May, 2nd by Mike Carpenter to elect Linda Los Tibbetts as Chair person. Motion passed unanimously. A motion made by Walter May, 2nd by Mike Carpenter to elect Myra Mercier as Vice-Chair Person. The motion passed unanimously. A motion made by Mike Carpenter, 2nd by Myra Mercier to elect Walter May as Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion was made to find a replacement for Kristen Cole as Secretary, because her current work schedule sometimes conflicts with FLT meetings.
- GPS Waypoints and Mapping is now in progress. GPS unit was used to mark waypoints for the new connector trail between Spencer and Hayfield Properties.
- Archery Report Cards received were 13. A total of 4 deer were taken during the Archery deer season. No reported problems from hunters or the general public.
- The possible donation of 2 properties by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to the FLT was tabled indefinitely or until further information is received from TNC. The parcels are located on Winsor Road.

Stewardship:

- **Spencer and Spencer West** - Many trees and branches clogged the trails on these properties from recent storms. Trails were cleaned by Tom Boyden & Dennis Therrien throughout the month of March. Many trails and drives were impassable but are now clear and will be monitored.
- **Tikkenen** - property trail has been blazed with white paint. There are many trees and branches to be removed before the trail can be used. That work will be done during the month of April and the trail should be available for use by May. The Web site will be updated with trail map and trail description as work progresses.

Reports:

- **Financial:** Mr. May reported the Insurance Deductible on our policy was raised from \$2000 to \$2500. This should not affect the premium cost.
- **Grants:** Ms. Tibbetts reported that Northwest RI Supporters of Open Space (NRISOS) will be dissolved. NRISOS is a non-profit organization which has often assisted FLT with events and publicity, most recently last August at the Grass Pond clean-up. NRISOS is distributing its remaining funds to non-profits which have previously partnered events with them. Their Trustee, Lili Feinstein, had presented a check in the amount of \$585.00 to FLT to be used towards the \$500 co-pay of a "Crew in your Community" stewardship grant sponsored by Audubon of RI. FLT unanimously agreed to allow Ms. Tibbetts to apply for this grant. Because the Grass Pond needs to be monitored this season for regrowth of water-shield lily (*Brasenia schreberi*), it is too soon to work at this site. Permission was granted instead to apply for a brush-clearing project along the Handicap-Accessible trail to Spencer Pond. Should FLT not receive this grant, the funds will be used for other stewardship projects on FLT properties.

Liaison Reports:

- **Conservation Commission:** The CC met on March 19, 2018. Election of Offices was tabled until the next meeting when more members are present. Discussion was made on upcoming Earth Day and Foster Old Home Days (FOHD) programs.
- **Planning Board:** Nothing to report.
- **Housing Board:** Because this Board is currently not active, FLT Trustees agreed to remove this item from our regular agendas.

Public Relations: Discussion was made on setting up a display board at the FOHD. Work will begin on the display at the next meeting.

Correspondence: Ms. Tibbetts was contacted by Wayne Federer regarding his family's property on Maple Rock Road. The property consists of a house and land. He wishes to help preserve the land and is contacting conservation organizations to gather information.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. May, 2nd by Mr Therrien.

Meeting ended at 9:15.

Next meeting May 1, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Therrien