

Foster Land Trust minutes January 3, 2012

Foster Land Trust (FLT)
Benjamin Eddy Building
South Killingly Road Foster,
RI 02825

In attendance: Linda Los Tibbetts, Chair; Myra Mercier, Vice-Chair; Walter May, Treasurer; Kristen Cole, Secretary; Bill Fortier; John Neale. Chris Iozzi was absent. There were several people in attendance, including Roy Najacki from the Gloucester Land Trust.

Minutes: Walter made a motion to accept the minutes from the Dec. 6 meeting, there was a second from John and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports/activities: -Walter reports that the financial reports from the Town are current. -GTH Bobcat Services submitted a report showing they donated \$1,355.65 in work performed beyond the "in-kind" value of the hay harvested in 2011. -Linda mentioned that a request to submit the operational budget to the Town will be coming soon.

Stewardship:

-Spencer: Walter reports that the survey is in progress; it may be completed by the end of January, weather permitting. There was discussion around sharing the survey results with the Foster Historical & Preservation Society; all were in agreement that this should be done. Linda reports that all of the work for the grant has been completed; we are waiting for the handicapped-accessible bench to be delivered and installed in spring. The bench will include a plaque stating it was funded by the FLT and DEM trails grant in 2011. The paperwork showing the completed work was due 12/31, however it will be submitted late since we were not made aware of the deadline.

-DelVecchio: Walter has the survey from Cross Engineering; he will attempt to find the boundaries indicated before asking Cross to point out the ones that are hard to find. Myra found five minor discrepancies in the deed which were sent to the attorney for review.

-Hayfield: There is potential to create a trail past an old grist mill. **-Hopkins:** Linda reports the beavers have taken down a large tree and gouged out the embankment; it will flood if there is excessive rain or snow. We will address this issue in spring.

Liaison Reports: **-Planning:** John reports the comprehensive plan work is ongoing. The Board is working on increasing communications between Planning, FLT, and Conservation Commission. **-Housing:** Myra reports that affordable housing units that are feasible for Foster are being discussed.

Public relations: -Linda reports that the FLT Gmail account will be set up soon. -The Board discussed trail walks at Spencer and Hopkins as part of the Blackstone Tourism Council's May 5 Tour Rhode Island. That group will visit land trust properties across the state

and take a 1 – 1 ½ hour walk at each. The group will bus in about 48 people. FLT will need to have two or three people who can lead the walks, and a place where the bus can park.

-Myra and Kristen will attend a meeting on Thursday to discuss RI Land Trust Days being held from Aug. 10 – Sept. 30 this year. FLT will likely plan a stargazing event at the Hopkins property; we will learn the details of planning the event at this meeting and will report back next month.

Charter review: -Myra is recommending that Section 10.17 Land Use Conveyance Tax be amended so that FLT can use conveyance tax funds for maintenance/operation costs as well as capital expenditures. Walter pointed out that Article 16.4 will also need to be amended to remove the requirement for FLT to submit a budget, as that would no longer be necessary if FLT can use conveyance funds to cover expenses. Walter made a motion to approve submitting the changes to the Charter Commission; Myra seconded and the motion passed unanimously. -

Future agenda items:

-Report on trail conditions.

-Myra and Kristen will report on RI Land Trust Days.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on February 7 at 7:00 in the Eddy building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole