

Foster Land Trust minutes
April 2, 2013

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

In attendance: Linda Los Tibbetts, Chair; Walter May, Treasurer; Kristen Cole, Secretary; and Myra Mercier. Bill Fortier, Sisan Smallman and Chris Iozzi were absent.

Minutes: The minutes from March were reviewed and approved with changes. Kristen will re-send the revised minutes.

Stewardship: At the **Grass** property, there will soon be a monument to replace one of the wooden stake boundary markers. Also, the Town will stop dumping fill, and will clean up what is currently there. At the **Sainio** property, harvesting of witch hazel has begun. The old sign for the shingle mill is ruined; Walter will attempt to refurbish it. At the **DelVecchio** property, Matt Sullivan from Crossman Engineering will place the boundary markers sometime this month. At **Spencer**, Walter reported that the sand pile will be moved and the fallen tree removed from the trail. Walter suggested a property survey to see what trees might be available to harvest, we can write this into the management plan for **Hayfield** and other properties.

Haying proposal: There were two proposals, from GTH Bobcat Services (Gordon Rogers) and Eat Me Acres (Keith Moffitt). The proposal from GTH includes the following:

- Insurance certificate
- Equipment list
- Rate of \$80-90 per hour for work over and above the proposed amount (not listed)
- Includes fertilizing with manure

The proposal from Eat Me Acres includes:

- No insurance certificate was included
- Equipment list
- Rate of \$65 per hour for work over and above proposed amount of \$520 (amounts to 8 hours of maintenance work on other fields, and \$65 per hour after that)
- No information about fertilizing the fields

We discussed each proposal and there were still a few questions about each. For GTH, how many hours of maintenance work is he offering? Also, is he willing to fertilize with limestone, or with manure only? For Eat Me Acres, does he have an insurance certificate, and is he willing to donate more time for maintenance (as donation or tax deduction)? Also, what about fertilizer for the fields? Linda mentioned that with either vendor, we would like the hay cleared so that the stone walls are visible; that should be the standard. Walter will get in touch with both vendors to get the questions answered. Myra made a motion to allow Walter to make the final decision based on the results of his inquiries and in the best interests of FLT. Kristen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Walter will inform the group of the decision before the next meeting.

Financial: The operating budget expires as of June 30; so please submit any expenses before that date. We discussed purchasing a laminator as a low-cost way to create temporary durable signage.

Grants: The trails grant disbursement check is still pending.

Liaison reports: No reports.

PR: The Land Trust activities for this year should be coordinated with Borders Farm; we will hold our trail walk on the same day as their event.

Mission statement: The mission statement and statement of purpose were combined; Myra made a motion to approve with a second from Walter and the motion passed unanimously. Kristen will send the revised mission statement to everyone.

Correspondence: Audubon replied to Ann Grenier's letter from March.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on June 4 at 7:00 in the Eddy building. (No meeting in May due to Financial Town Meeting)

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole