

Foster Land Trust minutes
June 4, 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; Bill Fortier; and our newest member and liaison to the Planning Board, Mike Carpenter (he replaces Sisan Smallman). Myra Mercier was excused and Chris Iozzi was absent.

Minutes: The minutes from the April regular and executive sessions were reviewed and approved; the executive session minutes were sealed. FLT did not meet in May due to Financial Town Meeting.

Stewardship: At **Spencer**, the sand pile has been moved and the fallen tree has been removed. Walter has spoken to the Foster Police Department about ATV use and vandalism at the property. They have recommended posting signage with hours of operation (dusk to dawn, etc.) and prohibiting motorized vehicles. We have had these signed posted, but they have been destroyed or stolen. If we post again and then take photos to show they have been posted, this should be sufficient to show that we have attempted to post. This way the police can take action when people are on the property during hours when they should not be there. Mike Carpenter mentioned that there are Web sites available that may allow the FPD to monitor places like Spencer using heat-based scanning. This would be especially helpful at night when there should be no heat signatures on the property. Mike will send the site links.

Walter reported on meetings that he is having with DEM and The Nature Conservancy to discuss moderating restrictions on easements that we have with them on some properties. The following is a listing of proposals from Walter to include in our management plans:

- Create a Forest Management Plan that will promote the health and growth of woodlands and reduce the risk of catastrophic forest fires
- Identify trees damaged by lightning strikes, wind, blow-downs and insects, and harvest damaged trees and standing deadwood for lumber, pulpwood and firewood
- Use "slash" to create wildlife habitat
- Work with Agriculture students at Ponagansett HS on trail planning, creation and marking
- Harvest witch hazel in 15-20 year cycles
- Preserve agricultural hayfields through periodic brush and tree removal encroaching on field boundaries; test soil and amend to maintain the health of harvested hay

There was a motion from Walter to accept and advance these proposals with DEM and TNC and a second from Bill. The motion passed unanimously.

Haying proposal: Walter reported that GTH Bobcat Services (Gordon Rogers) initially accepted our offer but then withdrew from consideration, and so the proposal for haying was awarded to Eat Me Acres (Keith Moffat). The contract will run for five years with an option to renew. Walter has memos documenting the acceptance and refusal by GTH, and the ultimate acceptance by Eat Me Acres, and those will be attached to the minutes. (Motion from Bill and second from Kristen, with a unanimous vote) Moffat is requesting to install at gate at Hayfield; there was a discussion about whether this would cause an issue because the property access is somewhat in dispute. Walter will check the deed. Moffat also wanted to know if he can use Roundup weed killer – according to Linda this is not allowed.

Financial: The operating budget expires as of June 30; it stands at \$490 after a payment of \$100 to the RI Land Trust Council for membership. Please submit any expenses to Walter before June 30. There is \$69,884.45 in the capital account.

Grants: The trails grant disbursement check was finally received; it was sent to Town of Foster in error. Kelly has moved it to our stewardship account, which stands at \$36,060.70. The completion of the Spencer grant was submitted, now that the fishing area is completed.

Liaison reports: Mike Carpenter reported for Planning; they are taking a look at deeds as part of every package when someone is presenting before the Board. This is to identify rights of way that owners sometimes do not know about (PWSB for example). The Board is also focusing on firebreaks in town and trying to solicit active and passive participation (funding and remediation action) from entities like PWSB and other utilities. Mike said that he wants to bring the FLT perspective to Planning projects.

PR: The Land Trust Days activities for this year will take place at the Spencer property at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14 (rain date is Sunday, Sept. 15) and Border's Farm will plan activities for the afternoon on those dates. Linda will lead the walk, unless she is called away for the birth of her grandchild. In that case Kristen and Brendan (from Conservation Commission?) will lead; Linda will speak to Brendan about his participation.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

There was a motion from Mike to go into Executive Session pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5) re: property donation review and property acquisition decision. With a second from Walter, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on July 2 at 7:00 in the Eddy building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole