



FOSTER LAND TRUST
Minutes – January 2, 2007
Benjamin Eddy Building, Foster, RI

A. Call to Order

The meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

B. Roll Call

Members present: Walter May, Linda Tibbetts, Don Manley and new member Robin Fish. Myra Mercier was excused.

C. Minutes

The minutes were not yet submitted from the last meeting. They will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

A visitor, Anne Cardoza, asked about access to the Spencer property. She rides horses on the property and volunteered to help clear trails between the Spencer and Hayfield properties. Since the land between the two properties is owned by DEM, Linda said we would need to get permission from them before clearing through-trails. Anne asked that we contact her when we do get permission. She offered her contact information.

D. Reports

Lisa Primiano from DEM contacted Walter May and also submitted a letter to the Land Trust requesting a meeting. She would like to hold a joint meeting of protected property owners in the Ponagansett River Corridor. The goal will be to discuss possibilities for cooperative land management.

Don Manley motioned to discuss setting up a meeting with Lisa. Robin Fish seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed. Linda Tibbetts suggested that Walter May be the official contact person. All agreed that Walter will contact Lisa to set up a meeting at their location as soon as possible.

Walter May announced that he has been reappointed to the Land Trust for a period of five years. Linda Tibbetts said our charter allows for only three-year appointments. She and Walter will look into it further.

Several Foster residents arrived to discuss options for maintaining open space on their property. Robin Fish motioned that we amend our scheduled agenda and go into executive session to discuss their options. Don Manley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Executive Session

Pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5), the Land Trust entered executive session at 8:00 pm.

F. Public Meeting

Called back in session at 8:55 pm.

G. Treasurer's Report

Walter May reported that we are still waiting for the completion of a town audit in order to determine how much money we have in our account, until which time we cannot make decisions about investments.

Linda Tibbetts asked if we would like to consider establishing a stewardship endowment account with the RI Foundation. The RI Foundation invests money, retains a small fee, and returns a small percentage of the accrued interest annually. The principal, however, cannot be removed from the investment service. She added that having endowment funds in a secure establishment such as the RI Foundation, can help strengthen public image, which in turn could favorably affect how grant-funding organizations view applications. All are in favor of scheduling a meeting with the RI Foundation to discuss options, benefits, etc. Linda will try to schedule them to speak at our February meeting.

Linda Tibbetts motioned that we purchase more “no motorized vehicles” signs for our properties. She cited a recent court case, and reminded us that proper signage affects liability decisions. Don Manley seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion was passed. Walter May will order signs, not to exceed \$500 in cost.

H. Volunteers / Community Service Projects

Discussed posting additional Land Trust signs in the upcoming weekend. Walter May said he would be posting signs and agreed to contact other members about volunteering their time.

I. Public Relations / Web Site / Public Outreach

Don Manley spoke to Foster’s new Treasurer, Randy Rossi, about utilizing space on the town’s web server for a Land Trust web site. The treasurer is temporarily managing the web space. He asked that we submit a formal letter of intent in order for him to give us official access. Don prepared a letter; however, Linda Tibbetts said they may be able to access space on the RI Land Trust Council’s web server. She agreed to check with the council for the next meeting. If they are willing to host our site for free, we will utilize their server.

Linda Tibbetts read a letter from Trout Unlimited regarding stewardship partnership on Land Trust property. They may be willing to work with us to manage a specific property. Linda will arrange a meeting with them to discuss options.

Linda Tibbetts reminded the Land Trust members that the annual Land & Water Summit conference is coming up on March 24th. She asked members to think about attending. Applications will soon be available.

I. Adjournment

Walter May motioned to adjourn the meeting. Robin Fisher seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 10:35 pm.