



**FOSTER LAND TRUST**  
**Minutes – June 5, 2007**  
**Benjamin Eddy Building, Foster, RI**

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**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

**B. Roll Call**

Members present were Linda Tibbetts, Chair; Walter May, John Neale, and George Christie. New members George Christie (liaison from Conservation Commission) and John Neale (liaison from Planning Board) were welcomed as new members.

**C. Minutes**

Motion made by Walter May and seconded by John Neale to accept the Foster Land Trust minutes of April 3, 2007, as presented. Voted 2 in favor, 2 abstain (not present at April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting).

**D. New Member Packets**

Linda Tibbetts created new member packets which she gave to John Neale and George Christie.

**E. Financial Activities:**

Current operational budget is \$299.50. This will most likely be zeroed out by the end of the fiscal year.

**F. Public Relations / Web Site:**

The resignation of Don Manley creates a delay in setting up a web page. Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner, suggested using the town's web site to post jpeg photos to showcase Land Trust properties.

**G. Report on Land Trust Budgets**

Walter May has been reviewing Land Trust accounts with town. Discrepancies were found in both per-2003 and the 2004 accounting, which Mr. May will continue working to reconcile. Mr. May changed the Land Trust account to Washington Trust, raising the interest rate from 2.15% to 4.75%. Further Action: Mr. May will continue to audit Land Trust accounts.

**H. Stewardship Account Decision**

Linda Tibbetts reviewed the idea of creating a stewardship account, specifically for stewardship of existing Land Trust properties. The trustees agreed that such an account is needed, the issue being how to fund it. The issue is whether or not the Land Use Conveyance Tax, the most reliable source of funding for Land Trust activities, can be used for stewardship, specifically whether or not it is an administrative expense (forbidden) or a capital expenditure (approved). Without the money, at this time stewardship can only be funded by grants or donations.

Walter May motioned and John Neale seconded that "The Land Trust shall establish a stewardship account form which interest is used for stewardship, while principal remains as Land Trust capital money." Motion passed unanimously. Further action: A determination must be made regarding using conveyance taxes for stewardship.

**I. Property Activities:**

Report on Tikkanen property site visit with Audubon Society regarding Joint Land Stewardship and trail plans: Land Trust members Walter May and Karen Mueller walked the Tikkanen property with Audubon Society representatives Larry Taft and Scott Rhuen. Audubon would like to tie Tikkanen trails into theirs. A trail would start at the parking lot on the Tikkanen property. The primary issue is that Audubon is more restrictive of use than is the town (no dogs, for example). Mr. Taft and Mr. Rhuen indicated they might be willing to be more flexible in their walk rules. Possibly a shorter loop path (in addition to the longer one) can be made that stays on the Tikkanen property. Further action: The Land Trust will request specific trail usage rules from Audubon and determine which they would like to see modified.

**J. Eagle Scout project**

Luke Esser, Spencer Property stewardship priorities: Have not heard more on the project.

**K. Correspondence**

Anita Rodman of New York contacted the Land Trust about a property of Tucker Hollow Road but had not followed up.

Joshua Mansolillo contacted the Land Trust regarding doing an Eagle Scout project at the Spencer Property. Trust approval was given, though it was noted that perhaps the Trust can let scouts know of our other properties to get work done at them as needed.

**L. Q. Executive Session:**

Pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5) re: acquisitions

**M. Meeting dates:**

Next meeting for the FLT will be held July 3, 2007.

Executive Session tentatively scheduled for June 25, 2007, at the Hopkins property.

**N. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

George D. Christie