

Foster Land Trust Minutes
October 2, 2007

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

Meeting called to order 7:05 p.m.

In attendance: Linda Tibbetts, Chair; John Neale; Walter May; Kristen Cole; Karen Mueller (Myra Mercier, excused; George Christe, absent)

Minutes: For August and September approved. (Motion to approve by W. May, seconded by J. Neale, approved by all.)

Financial activities and reports: W. May reported that the stewardship account has been established at 5.15% interest. There is currently \$37,000 in the account. Also the audit was completed as of 9/13; the current balance in the capital budget account is \$181,522.81. There is \$2,881.00 in the operational budget.

W. May requested a disbursement not to exceed \$100 for the purchase of rebar, paint, and tape for property maintenance. Motion to approve by K. Mueller, seconded by J. Neale, approved by all.

Liaison reports: J. Neale reported that the Planning Board has resumed Route 6 rezoning workshops. The Planning Board is hoping to schedule informational meetings for the public in January.

Property activities, reports, stewardship, and management plan decisions: Carl Riccio submitted a report about the Tikkanen hayfields on Kennedy Road. He reported that the fields are in need of lime and fertilizer, and offered to have a soil sample analyzed to determine the mix and amount needed per acre. He can have the results ready for the November Land Trust meeting along with his recommendation. There is no charge to the Land Trust for the soil sample.

W. May reports that he established a lot line and pegs at the Hayfield property, with signs posted at the boundaries. Regarding the encroachment on the property, he reports that the corrals are gone, but a tractor is still present. W. May also reports that with regard to the Tikkanen property, the boundary markers do not comply with the survey. However since the property borders land already protected by the Audubon Society, this may not be an issue.

K Mueller reports that she will trim the overgrown brush around the property sign on South Killingly Road.

Old business: There was a discussion about creating a “request for proposals” for hayfields management by year-end. The Land Trust would like to receive “service in kind” or other stewardship services in trade from those who might be interested. W. May and K. Mueller will work on the RFP should have a report ready for the November meeting.

New business: L. Tibbetts passed out copies of the Master Plan document that needs updating. Board members should begin to consider goals and key properties to add to the plan.

Regarding the Hopkins property, no mulch has been spread as specified. Several white pines have been planted on the slope, but without mulch a heavy rain may undermine the plantings. W. May moved that Town Planner, Ann-Marie Ignashier be informed that, “as agreed, the soil should be stabilized with 4-6 inches of wood chips.” The motion was seconded by K. Mueller, and approved by all.

Correspondence: L. Tibbetts received a letter indicating that there is a property available for purchase on Route 6 near the Hopkins property. This could be a potential opportunity to partner with the Recreation Committee.

L. Tibbetts received notification that there may not be an open space bond issue on this year’s ballot. This would mean fewer grant dollars available in 2008.

L. Tibbetts passed around the Land Trust Alliance 7 Guiding Amendment Principles for properties or Conservation Easement purchases.

There was no executive session.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 6 in the Eddy building.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Cole