

Foster Land Trust Minutes
November 6, 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; and new member Lucy Minturn (from Conservation Commission)

Minutes: For October approved as read, with the exception that August minutes were not actually approved during the October meeting. (Motion to approve by W. May, seconded by K. Mueller, approved by all.) The August minutes are still pending from George Christie.

Financial activities and reports: W. May reported that FLT received \$1,800.70 in conveyance fees in September, and \$1,320.00 in October. The cumulative total is \$45,798.10.

Liaison reports: J. Neale reported that Route 6 rezoning workshops with the **Planning Board** continue. In some cases the Board is exploring a change from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) zoning to Agricultural Residential (AR). The Board continues to identify nodes along Route 6 that may be best for mixing residential and commercial development; this may allow for more affordable housing units.

L. Minturn reported that the "Way of the Woods" educational bus exhibit sponsored by the **Conservation Commission** was successful. It's possible that FLT may use such a program for educational purposes at one of its properties in the future. The Conservation Commission is also reviewing its goals for 2008.

M. Mercier reported that the **Affordable Housing Committee** is effectively an extension of the Planning Board right now. The Committee may request Trust status once its plans ramp up. The Committee is currently reviewing land use/subdivision regulations to ensure they are comprehensive and clear. As mentioned by J. Neale, the town needs some new options to allow for mixed-use zoning along Route 6 nodes. The Committee is also working with the Woonsocket Neighborhood Works organization, a non-profit with extensive experience dealing with affordable housing issues.

Property activities, reports, stewardship, and management plan decisions: Carl Riccio submitted a soil sample report and fertilizer recommendation from University of Connecticut for the **Tikkanen** property. K. Mueller will review the report. FLT may need

to consult with the Nature Conservancy to make a case for fertilizing, since they assisted in purchasing this property.

W. May reports that when he was cutting brush at the **Tikkanen** property, he noticed a window cover missing on the building there. He will re-seal it and any other windows that may be exposed. L. Tibbetts asked if he would take over contacting the fire department to discuss demolishing the building and the shed on the property. Walter agreed to be the FLT contact for this project.

Regarding the **Hayfield** property on Winsor Road, W. May made a motion that FLT amend the plan to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) to allow for fertilizing the field. The motion was seconded by M. Mercier and approved by all.

Old business: There was a discussion about management plans and maintenance for **Tikkanen** and **Hayfield** properties. K. Mueller and W. May will develop a request for proposals and advertisement soliciting “service in kind” or other stewardship services for any/all FLT properties in trade from those who might be interested in haying the Tikkanen and Hayfield properties. L. Minturn moved that Karen and Walter send the drafts to Board members via email ahead of the next meeting for review and comment, and that the Board discuss and approve the RFP and advertisement at the next scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded by Walter and approved by all.

There was a discussion around designating FLT properties as hayfields, meadows, wetlands, forest, etc. when developing management plans. K. Mueller moved that as FLT develops management plans for each property, the Board designate land type and land use for each. The motion was seconded by L. Minturn and approved by all.

K. Mueller made a motion that the two main fields on the **Hayfield** property, and two main fields on the **Tikkanen** property, have been maintained as hayfields up to the present time and should continue to be hayed. Also that the smaller field on the west side of the Hayfield property has become overgrown and should be kept as a meadow. The motion was seconded by L. Minturn and approved by all.

Audubon Trails Workshop discussion: W. May and K. Cole attended the Audubon Trails Workshop held on October 13 at the Powder Mill Ledges facility in Smithfield. Kristen will pass along some materials and Web site links about recent trail/conservation easements obtained by the Aquidneck Land Trust.

Correspondence: L. Tibbetts received a copy of the Rhode Island Land Trust Enews, reporting that a grant submission date of December 14, 2007, has been announced. It is the final grant round which will use the remaining 2004 State open space grant bond money. By consensus, members determined that the Board would not pursue a new property purchase at this time due to involvement with the 2007 March grant award, as well as stewarding issues on its many recent purchases.

Linda received notification of a Rhode Island Natural History Survey workshop, and conservation easements workshop at Wesleyan University

Linda received notification that there may not be an open space bond issue on the ballot in 2008, meaning fewer grant dollars available. FLT may draw up a letter to the governor and legislative leaders requesting support of a bond issue. FLT may also request that the Foster Town Council draw up a letter of support.

Linda received a copy of Land Trust Alliance standards and practices information for municipal land trusts.

Executive session [pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5) re: acquisitions]: J. Neale made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by M. Mercier and approved by all.

Resumed open meeting: The January FLT meeting is scheduled to take place January 1, 2008, a federal holiday. John will contact Town Clerk Anne Irons to see if we can meet on January 8 instead, possibly in another location if the Eddy building is being used.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4 in the Eddy building.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Cole