

Foster Land Trust Minutes
September 2, 2008

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; Walter May; Kristen Cole; Myra Mercier; Lucy Minturn; John Neale

Minutes: For August approved as written by unanimous vote.

DEM conservation easement for pending Hopkins purchase: L. Tibbetts reported that the amount listed (\$85,000) will be updated to include closing and survey costs. J. Neale moved to open a discussion about the Hopkins management plan, specifically related to the “no hunting” provision, with second from W. May. Walter expressed concern that if hunting is prohibited, FLT may not be able to take action when some species begin to cause harm to the property (i.e., beaver dams). Linda will include language in the management plan to prohibit hunting, but allow for removal of invasive species and/or population control with FLT permission. Walter also expressed concern about tree cutting, since the language in the easement seems restrictive. Linda will also add language in the management plan to make it clear that FLT intends to clear brush and cut trees when necessary for appropriate property/forest management purposes.

Property reports/activities: L. Minturn volunteered to create a spreadsheet for all of the FLT properties, showing date of purchase, purchase price, sources of funding, and existing easements for each.

Spencer property: FLT received a call about the overgrown brush around the pond. Should further calls be received, FLT will attempt to solicit volunteers (hopefully those who call) to help complete this work.

Hayfield/Tikkanen: W. May worked with some community service volunteers to clear brush fronting the stone walls. L. Tibbetts reported that the Hayfield soil sample analysis from UConn does not include a nitrogen analysis, and recommended re-sending to UMass for a more thorough evaluation. J. Neale made the motion, seconded by L. Minturn, and the recommendation passed unanimously. Walter, Linda, Lucy, and Kristen will visit the Hayfield property on Sept. 7 to finish identifying boundaries, and gather soil samples for the new analysis.

Saino property: W. May was approached by H. Congdon of Sterling, CT about the possibility of harvesting witch hazel from this and possibly other FLT properties; the going rate is about \$50/ton. M. Mercier moved to open discussion, and L. Tibbetts

seconded. Board discussed possible issues and concerns; harvest would mean steady income to help maintain FLT properties, as long as harvest and methods of harvesting do not negatively affect the properties. L. Minturn moved that Walter should investigate further, obtaining estimates about yield and specifics about harvesting methods in order to make a decision. J. Neale seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Reports/activities: W. May reported that FLT received some funding from conveyance taxes in August, but receipts are down significantly from 2007.

Liaison reports: J. Neale reported that the Planning Board is meeting with the Town Council to discuss ordinances (“piano key” lots will be discussed). M. Mercier reports that the Housing Board will also meet with the Council about next steps for its previously submitted affordable housing plan.

Executive session, pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5) re: acquisitions: To discuss potential acquisitions using the RI DEM grant funding set to expire on Sept. 26.

** Vote taken in executive session to pursue grant for purchase of property in the North Foster Greenway.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7 in the Eddy building.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Cole