

Foster Land Trust Minutes
January 6, 2009

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

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Linda Tibbetts, Chair; Walter May; Kristen Cole; John Neale

Absent: Myra Mercier

Minutes: For December approved as written by unanimous vote.

Property reports/activities: Closing for the Hopkins property was held on December 6. L. Tibbetts reports a delay in issuing the title, and so grant funding from the Nature Conservancy has been held up. Linda is working on this issue with Town Planner Ann-Marie Ignasher. There is a pending Champlin grant for \$25,000 which is specifically designated towards the purchase price of the property, and a DEM grant for 50 percent of the closing costs, including the property survey. DEM is also purchasing a conservation easement for \$85,000.

Linda reports that she walked the Hopkins property in December and it looked good, no motor vehicle tracks. The fence will be kept locked with keys available at the police and fire stations, Linda and W. May will also have copies.

Spencer property: J. Neale discussed clearing deadwood on the property with Walter.

Hayfield/Tikkanen properties: John and Walter are still working on the fertilizer issue (chicken manure vs. organic fertilizer, costs vs. benefits). There was a discussion about the possibility of using stone from the foundation on the Hayfield property, possibly in trade for maintenance on the property, or to sell it using the money earned to fund maintenance. Walter will look into the possibilities and report back. The shed on the Tikkanen property is still standing and needs to be removed by the fire department; Walter will contact the Moosup Valley FD to discuss. There was a general discussion about creating trails on the properties, and possibly finding some grant money to fund these trails. It would be ideal to create cross-trails with the Nature Conservancy property if this can be achieved, along with a kiosk/parking area to introduce patrons to the property and provide educational/informative materials. With trails and a new kiosk, the FLT could sponsor a grand opening and make this a real public relations event.

Budget: Operational budget due to Town Council soon.

Land & Water Summit: This is an all-day event around conservation and land trust issues; it will be held in March.

Financial: The Board discussed placing its funds in 6-month CDs vs. 30-day Treasury notes; no actions or decisions were made.

Tax filing: FLT received some information from the RI Land Trust Council about the possibility of having to file a tax return. Linda does not believe this applies to FLT as a municipal land trust; she will confirm with Rupert Friday from RI LTC.

Motor vehicle ordinance: The Board discussed proposing an ordinance to the Town Council forbidding the use of motorized vehicles on FLT properties. Several such ordinances exist, including in Cumberland, Tiverton, and Glocester. The Board will review existing ordinances and discuss further at its next meeting.

Work session: It was suggested that the next meeting be held as a work session to discuss public relations priorities and plans.

Liaison reports: Planning Board: John reported on a presentation by Scott Millar at the RI DEM about water flow through forested vs. urban areas. The results seemed to justify 5-acre zoning, with significant soil degradation occurring in higher density areas. There were no liaison reports from Housing Board or Conservation Commission.

Correspondence: None.

Executive session, pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5), re: acquisitions:
There was no need for Executive Session.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3 in the Eddy building.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole