

Foster Land Trust Minutes
March 3, 2009

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

Meeting called to order 7:13 p.m.

In attendance: Linda Tibbetts, Chair; Walter May; Kristen Cole; John Neale; Myra Mercier; Bill Fortier (new member)

Minutes: For January approved (with one minor change) by unanimous vote.

Property reports/activities: The FLT currently has 13 parcels totaling 712 acres under management.

Hayfield: L. Tibbetts reports that GTH Bobcat Services, the haying contractor since last May, is requesting relief from its agreement to purchase and spread fertilizer for the property. According to GTH, fertilizing according to the results suggested by the soil analysis would be too costly. W. May will pursue this issue with GTH.

Hopkins: Linda suggested that members of FLT get together with representatives from Trout Unlimited and RI DEM to plan an event for spring. Walter will contact TU, but all agreed the property will not be ready for fishing this year, but should be ready for hiking.

Tikkanen: Linda suggested holding a grand opening at this property, after the shed and stone foundation have been removed. However Walter suggested that the Hayfield property is more suited to a grand opening/public relations event since the property needs no maintenance to make it ready, and its boundaries are mostly marked. After discussion it was agreed that FLT should aim for holding an event at Hayfield after the 2nd cut of hay in mid- to late-September. All members should think of ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

Financial: Linda and Walter reported some discrepancies have been discovered with FLT accounts recently. Conveyance taxes have not been deposited since February 2008, and it appears that the recent RI DEM payment for the Hopkins purchase may have been misrecorded. There is also a question whether funds from the Nature Conservancy for the Hopkins property have arrived or not. Irregularities in FLT accounts have been a chronic problem that the Board thought resolved last year, but it appears that problems persist. Walter will take up these issues with the new town Treasurer, who is responsible for FLT accounts according to the town charter, and the Town Council if necessary. FLT would like quarterly financial reports and authorization to seek bank statements directly so that the Board can keep a handle on the accounts for which it is responsible. It is difficult to know whether FLT has adequate funds on hand to pursue property acquisitions for which grants have been awarded.

Grants: FLT has been awarded a grant from RI DEM representing the last of the 2004 Open Space Bond Funds. The grant has been awarded to provide 50 percent of the purchase price for a parcel located in the North Foster Greenway.

Stewardship: FLT has three signs ready to place at designated properties.

Liaison reports: J. Neale reports the Planning Board is considering four lots being proposed in the vicinity of Cucumber Hill and Kennedy roads. M. Mercier reports the Housing Board met with the Gloucester and Scituate Housing Boards to discuss sharing information and resources, as all three communities share unique rural features that make affordable housing directives very difficult to satisfy.

Correspondence: There is a meeting of the Connecticut Borderlands Project being held on March 25. Linda will attend since they will discuss connecting trails in Exeter and Killingly. Foster also borders Killingly and there is possibility of collaboration.

Executive session, pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5), re: acquisitions. To discuss purchase of parcel in the North Foster Greenway. Motion from J. Neale, second from L. Tibbetts.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7 in the Eddy building. The following topics will be added to the agenda:

- Change to May meeting date to accommodate Financial Town Meeting
- ATV ordinance
- Ideas for event at Hayfield in September

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole