

Foster Land Trust Minutes
July 7, 2009

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

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

In attendance: Linda Tibbetts, Chair; Walter May; Kristen Cole; John Neale; Bill Fortier; Myra Mercier. Chris Iozzi was absent.

Minutes: J. Neale moved to accept the June minutes (regular and executive sessions) with no changes, sealing the executive session minutes until purchase in the North Foster Greenway is complete. M. Mercier seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship: J. Neale has been cutting brush and eradicating poison ivy at the Spencer property and will try to visit regularly to do maintenance and observe conditions. He discovered the campsite that C. Iozzi reported at the last meeting; it does not appear to be on FLT property. The picnic table has been moved; FLT will have to get two volunteers to move it back to its designated area so that it continues to be handicapped accessible.

Hopkins: W. May and B. Fortier have completed marking the southern border, there is one line left to mark. Since this last boundary has been difficult to find, FLT may have to contact the surveyor for assistance. Walter will make one more attempt to find the marker, but if unsuccessful FLT will contact the surveyor.

Walter contacted the USGS about the water quality testing station constructed on the property without permission. The USGS acknowledged that it failed to get permission and offered to remove it. After discussion, FLT agrees to keep the station with the understanding that USGS will forward water quality reports to us each quarter.

L. Tibbetts opened discussion about cutting a new trail for additional fishing access to Dolly Cole Brook; FLT may need to consult with Trout Unlimited and DEM. FLT will meet with both parties to discuss the possible trail and the management plan soon.

Tikkanen/Hayfield: W. May reports this extremely wet summer is ruining the hay crop. GTH Bobcat Services will harvest when possible, but the yield will be smaller than last year. Walter made a motion that FLT use the work hours built up for GTH in filling the cellar hole at Tikkanen, and J. Neale seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Sainio: W. May reports the witch hazel harvest is ongoing.

Financial: W. May reports that as of 5/31/09 there is \$110,624.14 in the capital account; \$38,697.18 in the stewardship account; and \$882.20 in conveyance taxes collected. A

total of \$8,196.10 in conveyance taxes has been collected since January 1. The interest rate on FLT accounts is greatly reduced compared to last year. Walter suggests that we consider municipal bonds for a better return; FLT will discuss at the next meeting.

L. Tibbetts purchased supplies with some of the remaining 2008-09 budget. There was a surplus of about \$300 as of 6/30/09 that was ceded back to the Town's general fund; the surplus exists because FLT will not renew its membership to the National Land Trust Alliance, and FLT members did not attend any conferences this year.

Insurance: W. May reports that FLT is now covered by Interlocal Trust Company at a reduced premium cost of \$2,000 (previous policy with Chubb cost \$4,000). The Town Council should be advised that the reduced premium comes with deductibles (including a \$250 personal injury deductible) and penalties for withdrawal that lasts for several years.

Grants: L. Tibbetts has submitted a request for reimbursement of closing costs from the Hopkins purchase. The costs totaled \$18,168.66 and DEM will reimburse half. W. May made a motion to deposit those funds to the FLT stewardship account when received, and J. Neale seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Relations: L. Tibbetts passed around the brochure, "Scenic Walks in Foster", published by the Foster Conservation Commission, Foster Planning Board, and FLT, and included in welcome kits for new residents. At some point we will have to update the brochure to include all of the properties.

Liaison reports: J. Neale reports from the Planning Board that plans for the recreation field on Foster Center Road are moving along. The work will be completed in stages, with the baseball field and parking lot completed during phase one. Phase two may include the soccer/football field and a walking trail around the perimeter.

Housing: Nothing new to report. Conservation Commission: No report.

Correspondence: L. Tibbetts read a letter from the Northern Rhode Island Land Trust Consortium asking for our cooperation in submitting data about FLT properties for the new database that is being created.

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

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole