

**Foster Land Trust Minutes**  
**September 1, 2009**

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

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

**Minutes:** J. Neale moved to accept the August minutes (regular and executive sessions) with no changes. W. May seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**Stewardship:** As a follow-up to last month's meeting, J. Neale spoke with the Foster Police Department and reports that FPD cannot order or instruct individuals to perform specific community service as part of their court agreements, they can only provide a list of community activities from which individuals can choose.

Hopkins: L. Tibbetts continues trail clearing and removing poison ivy.

Tikkanen/Hayfield: W. May reports the haying is complete at Tikkanen, and it's scheduled to begin at Hayfield in the coming week.

Sainio: W. May reports the witch hazel harvest continues.

Spencer: J. Neale repaired the picnic table and returned it to its designated area. There is one seat bench missing, and he will replace it.

The extensive damage to the picnic table included a deeply-carved swastika symbol that cannot be sanded off. John may attempt to add carving details that will effectively turn the swastika into a different symbol or pattern entirely.

Since the picnic table seems to be the object of continuous vandalism, FLT may consider anchoring it permanently into its designated area so that it cannot be moved around.

In addition to the picnic table, the entire property is being degraded by ATV use, and tent dwellers and others who are leaving a lot of trash behind. There was general discussion about how to stop the ATVs, including proposing an ordinance banning use on FLT properties. There was a suggestion to designate one FLT property specifically for ATV use, as a way to stop use on other properties, however most FLT properties have conservation easements attached that prevent that usage.

K. Cole will contact some other Land Trust organizations in the state to see how they are combating the ATVs.

Sainio/LaPolla/Schneider: L. Tibbetts reports that FLT needs to submit a renewed management plan covering the next five to 10 years to DEM sometime next spring, and the Board should be considering that plan now. FLT will also add the new property on Shippee Schoolhouse Road to that management plan.

Linda mentioned that FLT needs to post signs on the properties that were purchased with DEM grant funds. There should also be mentions of Nature Conservancy and/or Champlin Foundation for properties purchased using those funds. W. May brought up the cost for those signs, and there was general discussion about obtaining funding, or getting permission from DEM and Nature Conservancy to create “bulk” signs that would bear the names of all of the organizations from which FLT receives funds. This would be more cost-effective and efficient, and would cut down on “signage clutter” at each site. Walter will look into this with DEM and Nature Conservancy.

**Reports & activities:** There was general discussion about the municipal bond presentation during the last meeting. The Board discussed placing a portion of funds from the stewardship account into municipal bonds. This will allow FLT to grow its funds while still having adequate liquidity to pursue stewardship initiatives.

Walter moved that the Board grant the Board Treasurer permission to invest an amount not to exceed \$20,000 in stewardship funds into insured municipal bonds having a rate not below 3.95%, and a Moody’s rating of Aa or better, a Fitch rating of AA or better, or a Standard & Poor’s rating of AA or better. B. Fortier seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

There was nothing new to report regarding insurance or grants.

Public relations: There was general discussion about starting some PR initiatives so that people in town will have a clearer understanding of FLT’s purpose, and the value FLT is bringing to the town. FLT will begin submitting regular articles to the Foster Home Journal to highlight each of the properties (possibly starting with the Walker property). K. Cole will write and submit the articles; she will contact FHJ to find out about deadlines.

**Liaison reports:** J. Neale reports the Planning Board is working with the Conservation Commission on regulations about maintaining/preserving stone walls in town. There is also a proposal being discussed about a development on Gene Allen Road that crosses into Gloucester, Foster, and Scituate.

Conservation Commission: C. Iozzi reports that Mike Wood, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, will be stepping down after next year.

The Committee is working on a presentation about Asian Longhorned Beetles, and may sponsor an e-waste collection drive, possibly in conjunction with another town.

Housing: No report.

J. Neale made a motion to go into Executive session, **pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5), re: acquisitions**, to discuss purchase of Plat 13, Lot 5, Shippee Schoolhouse Road. W. May seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6 in the Eddy building.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole