

**Foster Land Trust Minutes
December 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 Los Tibbetts, Chair; Myra Mercier, Vice-Chair; Walter May, Treasurer; Kristen Cole, Secretary; Bill Fortier; John Neale; Chris Iozzi.

Minutes: John moved to accept the November minutes (regular and executive sessions) with no changes. Myra seconded, the motion passed unanimously with Linda abstaining.

Stewardship & property reports: Linda has been in touch with Brian Wilkinson of the RI Land Trust Consortium (includes Burrillville, Glocester, Foster, and DEM); the group is conducting GPS surveys this week. Brian will walk the **Hopkins** and **Spencer** properties with Walter May for mapping and identifying rare species that may be present. Linda also found out that URI has GPS units available to borrow if FLT is interested in mapping its properties; URI can also overlay trail maps and aerial photos for publishing.

Linda also reports that the recent rains washed away a good portion of the beaver dam at the **Hopkins** property, so the trail is in good shape for now.

Walter reports that he is continuing to clear brush around the perimeter at the **Spencer** pond. He recommends moving the concrete bumpers along the handicapped accessible trail to allow access to maintenance and first responder vehicles. The bumpers could be relocated to the parking area, or used at the Grass property. Walter made a motion to that effect, and John seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Gordon Rogers will fill the cellar hole at **Tikkanen** to complete his maintenance service hours from 2008 and 2009. There is still a shed to burn on the property; Linda will contact the Moosup Valley Fire Station to see if they can use it for training.

Walter also reports that the last hay was cut at **Hayfield** last month; there were a total of 345 bales taken from Tikkanen and 120 from Hayfield.

Walter reports that the witch hazel harvest from the **Sainio** and **Schneider** properties netted \$6,100 for the maintenance fund.

Reports & activities – Financial: Walter reports that there is a substantial lag between the time conveyance tax deposits are collected and when they are being deposited. The last reported deposit was in June, but the deposits from September and October should also be included. Linda will add a note about the late deposits in the next quarterly report.

Walter also reported the purchase of a \$10,000 municipal bond (RI State Health & Education Building Corp.) at 5 percent interest.

Reports & activities – Insurance: Walter reports that the FLT insurer, RI Interlocal Trust, is offering a grant for public safety equipment (hard hats, gloves, goggles, etc.), FLT will look into applying.

Reports & activities – Grants: Linda reported receiving the last grant from DEM for \$9,058.75, representing their portion of the closing costs for the Hopkins purchase. However the check was made out to the Town of Foster – we will have to monitor very closely to ensure the deposit is made correctly into the FLT account.

Linda also reports that DEM and RIDOT will make available \$1.1 million for local recreational trail projects, development, and equipment. Gloucester has already applied for GPS equipment. There was general discussion about requesting the following:

- chainsaw / gas can
- GPS
- lopping shears
- pruning saws
- pole saw
- gravel (for Spencer property walkway)
- paving and ditch work (Tikkanen driveway)
- shed (to keep FLT equipment – there would have to be discussions with the Town about where it would be located)

Public Relations: Kristen reports that the next FHJ article is underway; the submission deadline is Dec.18 for the January edition.

Liaison reports – Planning Board: John reports that the Planning Board continues work on the Route 6 project. The Board will soon finish its recommendations for a stone wall ordinance. There will be a site walk at the DeCosta subdivision on Gene Allen Road.

Conservation Commission: Chris reports that attendance at the recent invasive species workshop was good. The Commission continues to discuss a “no bin, no barrel” recommendation.

Affordable Housing Trust: Myra reports that when funding becomes available, the Housing Trust will develop design guidelines for affordable housing. There is currently a waiting list for senior housing at Hemlock.

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

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 5 in the Eddy building.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole