

**Foster Land Trust minutes**  
**December 7, 2010**

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 was excused and Chris Iozzi was absent.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the October minutes passed unanimously, with Linda and Myra abstaining since they did not attend that meeting.

**Financial Reports/activities:**

- Walter reported that the capital budget request has been submitted; it's a formality since FLT receives a portion of conveyance tax in lieu of budget.
- The funds from DEM for the Grass purchase have been received; \$125,000 goes to the capital account and \$8,537.50 representing half of the "soft" costs (surveys, closing costs, etc.) will be allocated to the stewardship account. There was also a check for \$3,927.37 from Mr. Congdon for the witch hazel harvest; this will also go into the stewardship account.
- The accounts are as follows as of Sept. 30:
  - o Capital: \$175,596.02
  - o Stewardship: \$56,498.50
  - o Bond: \$10,500
- There is enough in the capital account to cover all of our outstanding liabilities for the Grass property (two more payments in 2011 and 2012).
- Walter reported on another bond purchase opportunity, although the bond is uninsured. Myra made a motion to grant Walter discretion to purchase \$10,000 in uninsured bonds at a minimum 4.5% interest rate from the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority. Bill seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Stewardship Reports/activities:**

- **Hopkins:** No update on the baseline documentation study.
- **Spencer:** Linda spoke with Greg Cassidy at DEM about the trail improvement grant. It will be OK to revise the terms of the grant, outlining the work we can now accomplish without the accompanying heavy equipment grant. We need to keep track of volunteer labor at this site, since these hours can be used towards the FLT matching for this grant.
- Eagle Scouts did a great job clearing around the pond, there is now much better access. Walter sent a "thank you" letter to the Scout master.
- Walter has started raking back the trail; we discussed moving the barriers around the picnic table and near the pond for wheelchair access. FLT may need a wetlands permit to do this.
- There was discussion about conducting a survey of the Spencer property to ascertain its borders. FLT will reach out to a local company to get an idea of the cost, and will go out to bid if we are decided to move forward.
- **Tikkanen:** We are waiting to hear about an Eagle Scout project for this property.

- **Grass:** Walter, Bill, and volunteer Dennis Therrien placed 110 boundary markers around 8,273 feet of the property. There are 31 stations around the perimeter, and prominent features have been recorded. FLT will improve the parking lot in spring 2011. Walter notes that the very back of the property is rocky and not suitable for horses.

**Public Relations:**

- The Hopkins property will be subject of the next article in March 2011. Hopefully we will have more info about the fishing by that time.

**Grants:**

- **DEM grants:** See notation in the financial reports/activities section.

**Liaison Reports:**

- Nothing to report.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- We will invite Trout Unlimited and Christine Dudley from DEM to the January meeting to discuss the fishing situation at Hopkins.

**Executive Session, pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5), re: properties.**

- Walter moved that we proceed to Executive Session, with a second from Myra. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 4 in the Eddy building.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole