

Foster Land Trust Minutes
March 2, 2010

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

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance: Linda Los Tibbetts, Chair; Myra Mercier, Vice-Chair; Walter May, Treasurer; Kristen Cole, Secretary; John Neale; Bill Fortier; Chris Iozzi.

Minutes: The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes from January and February.

Correspondence: The Land Trust Alliance conference will be held in October. Linda has more information for anyone interested in attending. MLS Survey of Smithfield wants to be on the FLT “bid list” for future surveying needs. The RI Land & Water Summit is asking for Land Trust organizations across RI to submit their top two accomplishments from 2009.

Reports & activities: (Financial/Budget/Insurance) The budget meeting with Town Council will be held on March 4 at 6 p.m. A public hearing for the Town budget is scheduled for March 25, with April 8 targeted as the date to vote on the budget. The Financial Town Meeting is scheduled for May 4.

Stewardship & property reports: The gate at **Hopkins** is broken and a truck has been going in regularly. Bill made a motion to purchase a new chain and lock to secure the gate, with Myra seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The trail that crosses the river on the **Spencer** property may not be part of FLT property; we would have to survey to determine the boundaries.

The GPS project to map **LaPolla, Schneider, Sainio, Hayfield, and Tikkanen** is underway. Walter will assist on the weekdays, and Linda on the weekends, but all are welcome to assist.

There is a request to include parking for horse trailers at **Hayfield and Tikkanen**.

There is also a project being proposed to survey the stone walls.

Public relations: Walter’s article about the economic value of FLT properties to Foster residents is being submitted for the April issue (before the FTM).

Grants

Grass:

- Environmental hazards report: The results of the hazardous assessment survey have turned up a small-scale charcoal manufacturing operation on the Grass property. There is also a dry gulley that has been used for clean fill since 1998.
- Management plan: The plan will include equestrian activity; there is an equestrian club that is willing to help maintain a horse trail, contingent upon including parking for horse trailers. Beth Stone is ready to cut trails if a FLT member can point out/walk the route.

General:

- DEM grant: FLT has submitted the Recreational Trails Program grant request for \$28,157.14. There is also a Heavy Motorized Equipment grant request.

Liaison reports

- Planning: John reports there is a major subdivision being proposed for Gene Allen Road (8 lots).
- Conservation Commission: Chris reports that he is the new Vice-Chairman, and Scott Ulrichson is the new Chairman. The CC is reevaluating its focus for 2010. The bluebird/bat house project is coming up. Two members of CC will attend the L&W Summit.
- Housing: Myra reports the committee is looking into Community Development Block Grants.

Conference: The Land & Water Summit is coming up, Linda may attend.

Master plan: FLT will reaffirm its mission, purpose, and goals for 2010. There was a motion from John to that effect, with Myra seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

John made a motion to go into Executive session, **pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5), re: acquisitions**. Myra seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Please note: The May meeting will take place on May 11 due to FTM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole