

Foster Land Trust Minutes
April 6, 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; John Neale; Bill Fortier; Chris Iozzi.

Minutes: The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes from March.

Correspondence: FLT received notice from Long Realty of a hearing on 4/14 for a request for zoning variance on Plat 22 Lot 44 Pole 34 Old Danielson Pike - relief from sewerage disposal setback requirement. This abuts the Spencer property.

Also received notice announcing a Land Trust Alliance rally in October, and a letter from Dick Walls about the Mount Hygeia Schoolhouse. Mr. Walls would like to present some options for protecting the schoolhouse with help from FLT; this may be scheduled for the June meeting.

Reports & activities: (Financial/Budget/Insurance) THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FROM THE TOWN TREASURER ARE STILL NOT BEING RECEIVED. Walter has requested monthly reports but they are not coming. The estimated capital account balance as of 3/31/10 is \$121, 474.64, and estimated stewardship account balance as of 1/10/10 is \$43,959.64. FLT received \$1,276.00 in conveyance taxes for March, and paid out \$8,000 in survey/appraisal costs.

The 2010-11 FLT budget request was accepted by the Town Council; it is the same amount as last year.

Rhode Island Land Trust Council dues of \$100 will be paid before June, in the current budget year. The insurance premium is due 7/1/10. Walter reminds FLT Board members to submit any expenses for reimbursement before June 30.

Stewardship & property reports: The gate at **Hopkins** was repaired, but is broken again. The lock is still good, but the hinge is broken and will need a new pin. May have been caused by ATV use.

Christine Dudley from DEM will walk the property on May 11 with Al Ball from Trout Unlimited and Stan Hopkins to see how it's situated for fishing, and to determine the best point of access.

The GPS surveys for **Hayfield, Tikkanen, Schneider, Sainio, and LaPolla** have been completed.

The witch hazel harvest (**Schneider, Sainio**) is expected to be much lower this year.

Martha Thoman of the North/South Trail Council would like to present a proposal to move the trail off of Tom Wood Road; this may be added to the June agenda.

Public relations

There may be an article in the Foster Home Journal for June.

Grants

Grass

The sale needs to close by September in order to receive DEM funds. The closing is currently projected for June.

- DEM has the appraisal and the survey is due Thursday
- The management plan will be completed at the next meeting
- Addendum to the title report to include a hazardous assessment survey was conducted, and a gulley with clean fill is located on the property
- Beth Stone will consult to mark out parking areas that will be suitable for horse trailers

General:

- DEM grant: FLT submitted a Recreational Trails Program grant request for \$28,157.14, and a Heavy Motorized Equipment grant request. We've learned that our grant is in the top three being considered, but DEM will only fund the top two. Also that we may win one grant (trails) but maybe not both. The trails grant was written to improve the handicap access trail at Spencer, and to repair and anchor the picnic table there, but if we receive the trails grant without the heavy equipment grant, that work will not be possible.

Liaison reports

- Planning: John reports the subdivision being proposed for Gene Allen Road received preliminary approval. Also the subdivision for the Grass property will be scheduled soon.
- Conservation Commission: Chris reports that members would like to walk the FLT properties. The bird & bat house projects are scheduled for 4/10. On 4/24 & 4/25 there will be collection for mattresses and e-waste at DPW.
- Housing: Nothing to report.

Conference: Linda attended the Land & Water Summit at URI, and participated in seminars about management plans (importance of baseline studies), and developing access to sites along rivers.

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, May 11 in the Eddy building.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole