

**Foster Land Trust Minutes**  
**June 1, 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; Walter May, Treasurer; Kristen Cole, Secretary; John Neale; Bill Fortier; Chris Iozzi. Myra Mercier was absent.

**Minutes:** The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes from April. The Board did not meet in May.

**Management plan approval:** Linda read through the plan for the North Foster Greenway (Grass, LaPolla, Sainio, Schneider) and the Board added some amendments, including mention of wildlife management in section (2) Public Use to allow for the possibility of hunting. The Board removed reference to the five-year time period for witch hazel harvesting under section (4) Maintenance, since the harvesting can run for a rolling five-year period and then stop for 10-15 years.

Walter moved to approve the plan as amended, with second from Bill. The motion passed unanimously. The plan will be submitted to DEM shortly.

The Board also read through the DEM easement for the Grass property, with Walter moving to accept and transfer the easement as written. There was a second from John, and the motion passed unanimously.

Walter and Bill reviewed the Grass property on 5/18 to conduct an environmental hazards survey, and found nothing to report.

With the management plan completed and easement ready to go, FLT will proceed with the Grass closing, which could take place in mid-June.

**Reports & activities:** (Financial/Budget/Insurance) THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FROM THE TOWN TREASURER ARE STILL NOT BEING RECEIVED. Walter spoke with the Town Treasurer on 5/19 and she agreed to send the reports, but they have still not arrived – the last official report was received in 12/09. Linda will make note in the quarterly report to the Town Council and may attend a meeting with them soon to get this matter resolved.

FLT received \$726 in conveyance taxes in April, for a year-to-date total of \$4,854.10. The Land Trust Alliance membership dues have been paid

**Stewardship & property reports:** Martha Thoman of the North/South Trail Council attended to speak about the portion of the trail that runs along Tom Wood Road south of LaPolla. Apparently Mr. Delvecchio (who abuts that property to the south) disputes the portion of Tom Woods Road that runs along his property and has considered blocking the trail to disallow hiking. The NSTC is considering options for moving that portion onto FLT property so that hikers can continue to use it. However the Nature Conservancy may soon acquire the Delvecchio property, so moving the trail could be a moot point. There may still be some interest in moving the trail onto drier ground though, and the NSTC may flag a proposed alternate route along that portion for FLT review.

The witch hazel at **Sainio** and **Schneider** is ready to be collected.

The gate at **Hopkins** has been fixed.

Walter will clean out the overflow dam at **Spencer** in the coming weeks.

The haying at **Hayfield** and **Tikkanen** has not yet begun, but GTH Bobcat Services will notify the Board before getting started.

The Rhode Island Land Trust Council has forwarded a request for proposals for piloting the RI Conservation Stewardship Collaborative baseline documentation and inventory protocol. FLT may consider participating, but will have to identify a suitable property.

**Public relations:** We will use Walter's article for the June issue of Foster Home Journal, and will probably have an article about the Grass property for the August issue.

**Grants:** FLT did receive the \$1,800 Recreational Trails Program grant from DEM, but did not receive the \$28,157.14 Heavy Motorized Equipment grant. Many of the proposals submitted under the trails grant cannot be completed without also receiving the equipment grant, so we need to clarify with DEM whether there may be more funds available under the trails grant program to accomplish our goals.

#### **Liaison reports**

- Planning: John reports the Board has submitted a request to the Town Council for an open meeting to discuss/propose the Route 6 zoning changes. The Board is also seeking a legal opinion to waive a fee for subdividing the Spencer's lot on Paine Road in light of their previous land donation to the FLT.
- Conservation Commission: Chris reports that the Commission is currently working on Old Home Days. The heavy trash collection was very successful this year, a number of tires were collected and will be disposed.
- Housing: Nothing to report.

**Correspondence:** Nothing received this month.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole