

**Foster Land Trust minutes**  
**July 6, 2010**

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

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

**Minutes:** The Board voted unanimously to accept the June minutes

**Reports/activities:** Carl Riccio was in attendance to discuss the haying contract at **Tikkanen**. He referred back to minutes in March/April of 2009 where FLT decided to waive the liming & fertilizing requirement for GTH Bobcat Services due to cost. He is questioning this decision for two reasons – first, he believes that the fertilizing is not as costly as was reported to the Board, and second, he warns that if the land is not fertilized the property it will not produce hay in coming years. He also reports ATV use on the property, saying the brush has been cut back from a rutted path being used for ATVs. He also reports the driveway is washed out and FLT signs are gone. He believes that GTH Bobcat Services may be responsible for the ATV path.

The Board will investigate the ATV use, and may revisit the fertilizing requirement with GTH Bobcat Services. However we do believe the costs for the level and type of fertilizing required are cost-prohibitive according to the documentation that we received last year.

**Financial:** Walter met with Town Treasurer/Finance Director Kerri Russ to discuss the consistent lack of monthly financial reports due to FLT. During their discussion it became obvious that FLT funds are again being comingled with the Town's general fund. They discussed the possibility of FLT opening an interest-bearing checking account at Washington Trust Bank that will allow electronic check writing (up to 6 checks per month) at no cost and will result in reduced effort for the Town Treasurer's office. The following decisions were reached:

- The Town Treasurer will submit quarterly reports to FLT within 7 days of the end of the quarter.
- The quarterly period will be set by the Town Treasurer's office to avoid periods of high activity. (In other words, the quarter may take place during an off-quarter cycle, like February – April instead of January – March)
- Each quarterly report will include an account detail report showing deposits/withdrawals with dates of transactions.
- Within 15 days after the end of each month, the Town Clerk will provide FLT with a copy of the conveyance tax return.
- FLT will provide the Town Treasurer with requisitions showing the appropriate account from which to withdraw funds.

Kristen made a motion that FLT authorize the Town Treasurer to open the interest-bearing checking account described above, with a second from Myra. The motion passed unanimously. Walter made a

motion to submit a letter describing the resolution of this issue to the Town Council, with a second from Myra. The motion passed unanimously.

**Grass closing:** The DEM conservation easement is pending; we can close as soon as it's received.

**Delvecchio property:** The Nature Conservancy is acquiring (or has acquired) this property that abuts some FLT properties (Schneider, Sainio, LaPolla). They are looking into the possibility of co-managing it with FLT.

**Public relations:** Next article should appear in the September issue; hopefully this will be an article describing the Grass purchase.

**Grants:** The 2010 Trails Grant has been modified and we are re-submitting to see if additional funds may be available.

**Liaison reports:** John reports that Ann Carlson has retired as Tax Assessor, and Pat Moreau has been hired to replace her. Pat has stepped down from the Planning Board, and John is now Chair of that Board. There were no reports from Housing or Conservation Commission.

**Correspondence:** The Rhode Island Conservation Stewardship Collaborative is conducting a baseline study to determine if the Audubon protocol is easy to use. They are looking for properties on which to undertake the protocol. Walter made a motion to submit the Hopkins property for consideration, with a second from Myra. The motion passed unanimously; Linda will submit the application this week.

**Future agenda items:** Election of officers will take place at the next meeting; there will be a master plan update, and possibly a presentation from Trout Unlimited.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 3 in the Eddy building.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole