



**FOSTER LAND TRUST**  
**Minutes – March 6, 2007**  
**Benjamin Eddy Building, Foster, RI**

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**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**B. Roll Call**

Members present were Linda Tibbetts, Chair; Walter May, Myra Mercier and Don Manley. Karen Mueller was excused. Robin Fish resigned. Cindy Bernard was present as acting secretary.

**C. Minutes**

Motion made by Walter May and seconded by Myra Mercier to accept the minutes of January 2, 2007 as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion made by Walter May and seconded by Myra Mercier to accept the Foster Land Trust minutes of February 6, 2007, as presented. Motion unanimously approved.

**D. Troop 101**

Scout Leader Mr. Raymond Lawrence and Troop 101 requested use of the Spencer property for March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2007 for a Troop 101 Community Service project. The Troop will camp on the property and provide community service by cutting and cleaning trails. Troop 101 will also clean roadway areas and clear around the sign at the entrance to the parking area to allow better sight conditions for parking. Also, the Troop will clear and clean trail edges. They will follow “leave no trace” procedures while on the property.

The Troop will obtain the necessary Fire Burning Permit for camp fires and will provide the Foster Land Trust with a copy of its insurance policy. Because of the outstanding history of Troop 101’s community service projects, the FLT encourages Troop 101 to look at other properties owned by the FLT for future Community Service Projects and events.

Motion made by Walter May and seconded by Don Manley to allow Troop 101 to participate in Community Service Project on the Spencer property for March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2007. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by Don Manley to move agenda item “Property Reports” to next item agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

**E. Property Reports**

Discussion for new members: Geocaching is a program that allows search and find using GPS systems. Specific coordinates are used to find hidden boxes. Participants from around the country could use personal GPS systems to locate boxes hidden on the Spencer property. Web log-in data was submitted for the files. Comments and photographs are positive public relations for the Land Trust.

**F. New Member Packet Review:**

Postponed until new member arrives.

**G. Discussion of Officers:**

Elections for the FTL officers will be held at the April meeting.

#### **H. Public Relations / Web Site:**

Don Manley will contact the web site company with the Land Trust content information for the new FLT website. Web site rules need to be established and priorities formatted.

#### **I. RI Conservation District Draft Legislation:**

Representative Nicholas Gorham requested that the FLT endorse the legislation he is proposing as a member of the House of Representatives to the General Assembly:

The proposal: To amend Chapter 42-113 of the General Laws of Rhode Island entitled "Rhode Island Housing and Conservation Trust Fund Act". The amendment, LC00241, is to enable town councils to designate all or a portion of such town for minimum lot sizes of 5 acres or greater, without the effect of increasing the density under other state mandates of housing in the portion of the town outside each designation.

Don Manley motions and Walter May seconds to endorse the proposed Act titled LC00241 submitted by Representative Gorham. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **J. Board Member Education Opportunities:**

Land & Water Conservation Summit on March 24, 2007, at the URI Kingston campus.

#### **K. Reports**

None.

#### **L. Public Hearing Notice**

Foster Land Trust received a notice of variance change on property Plat 8. The FLT has no reason to address this variance as it lies outside the FLT abutter area.

#### **M. Financial Activities**

Walter May, Treasurer, spoke with Town Treasurer, Randy Rossi. Mr. Rossi states he should have the FLT audit accounts completed in a week, and the FLT is listed as a separate entity from the Town of Foster. It is agreed that that FLT should review the Town Charter to clarify the FLT's financial responsibility and should request quarterly reports from the Town Treasurer.

Budget 2007-2008: The Foster Town Council accepted the Foster Land Trust's budget.

Insurance: no report.

Stewardship Funds: Walter May and Linda Tibbetts will meet with Randy Rossi later in March to discuss options, including but not limited to the RI Foundation, for growing a stewardship endowment.

#### **N. Property Activities:**

- Signs: Some signs have been replaced and some signs are needed on the Hayfield property, Tikkanen property, and Spencer property. New "No Vehicles" signs have been placed on the Tikkanen and Spencer properties, but are still needed on the Hayfield property.
- Property walk: The Audubon Society requests to walk the Tikkanen property with FLT. Dates available for the FLT are March 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Audubon Society of RI will be contacted for available dates. The building on the property will be burned by the Fire Department. The Nipmuc stone, possible the mantle of the original farmhouse on the Tikkanen property should be preserved.
- Motion made by Don Manley and seconded by Myra Mercier to ask the Fire Department to protect the tree that is next to the building during the burn. Motion approved unanimously.

- Motion made by Don Manley and seconded by Myra Mercier to donate the Nipmuc Stone to the Borders Farm. Motion approved 3-1, Linda Tibbetts abstained. Linda Tibbetts to contact the Borders Farm on the issue.

**O. Grants**

The grant for the Greenway project has been completed. \$250,000 from DEM: \$230,000 plus closing costs will go to the National Conservatory, which will then transfer the LaPolla deed to the Land Trust. The FLT will review the reports and clarify the completed reports.

**P. Correspondence**

The Northeast Alliance will be holding a conference. The FLT will write a letter to Luke Esser, Troop 102, Scituate, to pursue his Eagle Scout project.

**Q. Executive Session:**

None.

**R. Future Agenda Items:**

Next meeting of the FLT will be held April 3, 2007.

**S. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Bernard