

Foster Land Trust Minutes
April 7, 2009

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

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Linda Tibbetts, Chair; Walter May; Kristen Cole; John Neale; Myra Mercier; Bill Fortier

Minutes: For March approved by unanimous vote. There was no February meeting.

Property reports/activities: No one from FLT attended the Land & Water Summit at URI this year. L. Tibbetts passed out updated FLT notebooks including property maps, management plans, and easements.

Saino/LaPolla: W. May and B. Fortier observed some of the witch hazel harvesting, there are about 15 to 20 stacks already. Walter reported that the harvest season may be extended if the processing plant decides to take harvested plants with the leaves still on them.

Hoff (East Killingly Road): Since this property was donated in memory of James Newsome, the property will be known as the Newsome property going forward. (Motion from W. May, second from J. Neale, approved unanimously)

Hayfield/Tikkanen: It has been brought to our attention that the stipulation in the haying contract regarding fertilizing the properties may not be economically feasible for the contractor, GTH Bobcat Services. The vendor has brought it to our attention that fertilizing these properties according to the soil sample recommendation from UConn would cost approximately \$6,000. FLT is looking into the following options:

- A possible federal grant to cover the cost
- Research less costly alternative natural/organic fertilizer
- Reassess the approximate cost submitted by GTH

Fertilizing the fields this year is not mandatory.

Spencer: Brush around the pond should be cut back this year.

Hopkins: Spring cleanup in partnership with Trout Unlimited or local volunteers should be arranged.

Financial: FLT will receive reimbursement from DEM for half the funds used to pay for closing, survey, and appraisal costs for the Hopkins property purchase. W. May moved

that these funds be deposited into the FLT stewardship account, and M. Mercier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Per the discussion from last month about financial reporting, M. Mercier moved that FLT write a letter to the town council asking to add the following item to its next meeting agenda:

- A request to ask the full council to vote to allow viewing access (print and electronic) for all FLT officers, including the Board Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary, giving officers the ability to review all FLT bank/financial accounts. FLT is also requesting monthly financial reports from the treasurer's office.

The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to account for FLT's financial status. The Board's current inability to immediately reference an accurate accounting of funds is placing in jeopardy its ability to receive matching funds or grants in conjunction with property purchases and/or purchase of easements.

W. May seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Insurance: No discussion this month.

Grants: FLT was awarded a grant from RI DEM representing the last of the 2004 Open Space Bond Funds. The grant for \$144,000 has been awarded to provide 50 percent of the purchase price for a parcel located in the North Foster Greenway.

Liaison reports: No discussion this month.

Stewardship: No discussion this month.

Correspondence: No discussion this month.

Executive session, pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5), re: acquisitions. To discuss purchase of parcel in the North Foster Greenway. Motion from J. Neale, second from M. Mercier.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12 in the Eddy building. (Rescheduling from the normal meeting date of May 5 due to Financial Town Meeting)

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole