

Foster Land Trust Minutes
August 4, 2009

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 Tibbetts, Chair; Walter May; Kristen Cole; John Neale; Bill Fortier; Myra Mercier. Chris Iozzi was absent.

Guest speaker: Michael O'Leary, Vice President, Roosevelt & Cross, Inc., spoke about investing in municipal bonds as an alternative to money market/cash savings. Muni bonds are generally free from taxes with a low degree of risk.

Minutes: J. Neale moved to accept the July minutes (regular and executive sessions) with no changes. W. May seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Property reports: J. Neale offered to contact the Foster Police Department to inquire whether any local youth must complete community service for recent violations (there was a well-publicized party broken up on the Foster-Glocester line, and several youths cited for underage drinking), and if so, if they would be interested in doing work for FLT.

Tikkanen/Hayfield: W. May reports the hay was not cut as of July 24. The wet weather has backed up all hay cutting this summer.

The board discussed requesting that GTH Bobcat Services, our haying contractor, use his equipment to fill in the cellar hole at Tikkanen as part of the maintenance owed in exchange for the hay.

Hopkins: L. Tibbetts cleared the trail of poison ivy and vines recently. The board discussed the beaver dam, and whether to dismantle it. It will probably take a great deal of effort to keep the waterway clear.

Reports & activities: With regard to the guest speaker presentation, the board will consider the possibility of investing in municipal bonds and discuss in future meetings.

Insurance: W. May reports that Chubb is still soliciting our business, even though we have signed with an alternative carrier.

Grants: The Rhode Island Historical and Preservation Society is offering grants to preserve historic barns, and the Town of Foster has applied for a grant in conjunction with the Town of Glocester. J. Neale moved to approve a letter of support, with a second from W. May. The motion passed unanimously. L. Tibbetts will write the letter.

L. Tibbetts reports that documents for the final disbursement of 2007 RI DEM funds have been submitted.

K. Cole made a motion to clarify and reaffirm the vote taken in September 2008 to pursue a purchase of land, identifying the parcel as “Plat 13, Lot 5, Shippee Schoolhouse Road”, and designating L. Tibbetts as signatory of the conservation easement. The motion was seconded by M. Mercier, and passed unanimously.

Public relations: L. Tibbetts was contacted by John Lewis, Foster Town Council Vice-President, about adding a FLT page to the town Web site. A general discussion followed, and it was agreed that we should allow a “face” page to be added (this page would include the mission statement, statement of purpose, goals, and board membership), however development of a free-standing FLT Web site should be discussed further, and creation, development, and maintenance for such a site should be entirely in the hands of FLT. The board has sought a volunteer to do this work in the past, but if the need is becoming more evident, it may be time to consider paying for these services. The Web site will be discussed more at future meetings.

W. May moved to allow development of a FLT “face” page for the town Web site, with a second from M. Mercier. The motion passed unanimously.

Liaison reports: J. Neale reports that the Planning Board is set to present its recommendations for Rt. 6 to the Zoning Board the week of Aug. 10. The Rt. 6 re-zoning project is a lengthy process involving many public hearings; it will culminate in a Town Council vote.

Housing: Nothing new to report. Conservation Commission: No report.

Correspondence: L. Tibbetts reports that the RI Land Trust Council is opposing a bill in the RI legislature that would remove liability protection for state and municipal properties. The RI LTC has many resources available online at: [www. landandwaterpartnership.org/library.php](http://www.landandwaterpartnership.org/library.php)

Executive session, pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5), re: acquisitions. To discuss purchase of Plat 13, Lot 5, Shippee Schoolhouse Road.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1 in the Eddy building.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole