

Foster Land Trust Minutes
November 3, 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 Los Tibbetts, Chair; Myra Mercier, Vice-Chair; Walter May, Treasurer; Kristen Cole, Secretary; Bill Fortier; John Neale. Chris Iozzi was absent.

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

Stewardship & property reports: L. Tibbetts reports that the beaver dam on the **Hopkins** property is causing the pond to rise, and it's in danger of overflowing the embankment. She suggested contacting Trout Unlimited and the DEM to see if they have any ideas to address the situation. There is no urgency to address, however.

Linda also brought up the topic of re-naming the Hopkins property, possibly to call it the Ram's Tail Trail. There was general discussion; K. Cole remains in support of keeping the property names with the former owners when possible for historical reasons.

Linda mentioned that FLT may need to acquire some boulders and position them at the Hopkins trail to keep out motorized vehicles. There is also a need to lay down mulch at the sand banks; W. May mentioned that we can obtain free mulch from the town.

J. Neale made a motion to obtain and use wood chips to mulch the banks, with a second from M. Mercier. The motion passed unanimously.

Walter mentioned that he is trying to connect with Bobcat Services (G. Rogers) regarding filling the cellar hole at **Tikkanen**. FLT is still owed maintenance hours from Bobcat per the haying contract.

Walter also mentioned that the witch hazel harvest is continuing at **Sainio**; there is a check pending for what has been harvested so far.

Linda reports that the Nature Conservancy would like to partner with FLT to formulate a management plan that would include a property they are acquiring which abuts **Sainio, Schneider, and LaPolla**; TNC would be able to help FLT with GPS mapping and other resources.

Reports & activities – Financial: Walter reports that the financial statements and conveyance tax reports are still not coming regularly from the town treasurer as

promised; he has received nothing since August. Walter will contact the town clerk (Tina Freeman) and town treasurer (Kelli Russ) to request the reports again.

Public Relations: The next FHJ article should appear in the January issue (deadline is 12/18); Kristen needs some information from Linda to proceed. This article will include a listing of all FLT properties, and may be posted on the town Web site.

Liaison reports – Planning Board: John reports that the Planning Board continues work on recommendations for a stone wall ordinance and outdoor boiler regulations. The Board also continues its work on the Route 6 project.

Conservation Commission: Linda received information from C. Iozzi about an invasive species workshop that the Commission will be hosting on Nov. 19.

Housing Board: Myra reports that the Housing Board will be working with the Planning Board to identify design standards for affordable housing.

Correspondence: Linda reports that the Rhode Island Land Trust Council's summit in March, 2010 will include workshops about baseline studies, ATV use, and invasive species. There was general discussion about using some of the stewardship money to purchase a GPS unit to help map the properties.

Walter made a motion to go into Executive session, **pursuant to RI General Law 42-46-5(a)(5), re: acquisitions**, to discuss the upcoming purchase of Plat 13, Lot 5, Shippee Schoolhouse Road. John seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Cole