

The February 22, 2024 Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President, in Foster, RI at 6:00 p.m. at the Benjamin Eddy Building.

The following members were present:
Denise L. DiFranco, President
Heidi Rogers, Vice President
Cheryl Hawes
Chris Stone
David Paolino

Also present:
Kelli Russ, Finance Director
Julia Chretien, Assistant Solicitor
Grant McGregor, Planner
Chief Lindell

- I.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/
PUBLIC COMMENT

Denise L. DiFranco asked for a moment of silence for Connie Polouski who passed away. She was a well-loved teacher and her husband has been very involved with our Recreation [Department].

Lynne Rider, Burgess Road, said she had a call from Ed Robinson. Preservation has cameras and they saw some people with long sticks doing something? Kelli Russ said they were testing the fire alarms. The Robinsons asked to have a heads up. Also, they came across a fantastic grant for the Town House but unfortunately it was too late [to apply]. It was for the Semiquincentennial and it would have been \$750,000 with no matching funds. The deadline was March 5 and the application required extensive detail from a preservationist of what had to be done, and compliant familiar with the particular era, and justify changes with the park service standards; and also an engineering study. Preservation was wondering if there was money still around to have that kind of thing done then we would be ready to go. Kelli Russ said there was some money set aside for capital if the Town Council wanted to reassign that.

Susan Joyce, planning board member, read a letter to the council in support of planning board chair Anthony Renzi (see Exhibit A). Ms. Joyce then read a letter in support of planner Grant McGregor (see Exhibit B).

Planning board member Mike Carpenter, Danielson Pike, stated how proud he was of the planning board members and the current planner, Kelli Russ, and Susan Dillon.

Heidi Rogers said she heard from people who are glad we are on Zoom but [they asked] if there is going to be a place to view them afterward. Susan Dillon said they are recorded and they are on YouTube under “Town of Foster, RI”
- III.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of General Warrants FY2024 #15 \$201,063.92

Chris Stone moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Heidi Rogers seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Move Item 1 under New Business: Regional Budget Presentation to this position

Cheryl Hawes moved, Chris Stone seconded, to move up Item 1 under New Business: Regional Budget Presentation to this position.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Renee Palazzo, Superintendent of Foster-Glocester, Amanda Raymond, Business Manager and Shelly Pezza, School Committee member. Ms. Palazzo said their Financial Town Meeting is scheduled for March 19 at 7 p.m. The Budget came in at a 2.76 increase for the Region with a .73 increase for Foster. Ms. Raymond said the major increases were salaries. The capital decreased by \$25,000.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS
1st Hearing –Zoning

Denise L. DiFranco said this is a first hearing so they will not be voting.

Heidi Rogers read the advertisement.

Denise L. DiFranco opened the public hearing.

Planner Grant McGregor reviewed the recommended ordinances.

1. Sec. 12-1. Penalty for violation of chapter; authority.
 - Recommendation to add a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine as a penalty for violation of chapter 12.
2. Sec. 12-48 – Businesses – Dumpsters.
 - Recommendation to add a requirement for all businesses to have dumpsters.
3. Sec. 16-1 – 16-30 – Reserved
 - Removal of section. A trailer park can no longer be created in Foster pursuant to Sec. 38-280.

Lynne Rider said the wording confused people into thinking you were going to remove the ordinance against trailer parks.

4. Sec. 16-61 - Temporary permits following damage
 - Addition of provision for the Town Council to issue temporary permits for a trailer following damage, arising from fire, wind storm or sudden casualty to a permanent residence which has made such permanent residence uninhabitable.
5. Sec. 16-81. - Unlicensed trailers prohibited.
 - Recommendation to state that no person shall maintain or use any unlicensed trailer as a dwelling unit without exceptions.
6. Sec. 16-82. - Procedure for applying for initial trailer license.
 - Recommendation to permit new trailers in Foster. Recommendation to follow the same procedure as a building permit for a trailer license. Recommendation to remove public hearing requirement. A trailer park can no longer be created in Foster pursuant to Sec. 16-121.
7. Sec. 16-83. - Standards to govern issuance of initial trailer license.
 - Recommendation for new trailers to meet setback requirements of the zoning district in which the lot is located. A trailer park can no longer be created in Foster pursuant to Sec. 16-121.
8. Sec. 16-84. - Hearing on issuance of initial trailer license; issuance or denial of license.
 - Removal of section. Recommendation to remove public hearing requirement for new trailers. A trailer park can no longer be created in Foster pursuant to Sec. 16-121.
9. Sec. 16-85 - Previously located trailers.

- Recommendation to state that all previously located trailers must comply with the provisions of Sec. 16-83.
- 10. Sec. 16-121 – Definitions
 - Removal of section. A trailer park can no longer be created in Foster pursuant to Sec. 16-121.
- 11. Sec. 16-122 - General requirements for operation of a mobile home or trailer park.
 - Removal of section. A trailer park can no longer be created in Foster pursuant to Sec. 16-121.
- 12. Sec. 16-123. - Sanitary requirements for operation of mobile home or trailer parks.
 - Removal of section. A trailer park can no longer be created in Foster pursuant to Sec. 16-121.
- 13. Sec. 16-124. - Registration of mobile homes or trailers
 - Removal of section. Trailers can no longer be brought into Foster pursuant to Sec. 16-121.
- 14. Sec. 16-125. - Existing land and area requirements.
 - Removal of section. Trailers can no longer be brought into Foster pursuant to Sec. 16-121.
- 15. Sec. 16-126. - Penalties for violation.
 - Removal of section. Trailers can no longer be brought into Foster pursuant to Sec. 16-121.
- 16. Sec. 16-151 – Required
 - Removal of section. A trailer park can no longer be created in Foster pursuant to Sec. 16-121.
- 17. Sec. 16-152 – Application
 - Removal of section. A trailer park can no longer be created in Foster pursuant to Sec. 16-121.
- 18. Sec 18-1- Dumpsters.
 - Recommendation to add a requirement for all businesses to have dumpsters.

Lynne Rider said she thought 10 feet was too close. Denise L. DiFranco asked about businesses that put out recyclables. Heidi Rogers asked doesn't that benefit us? David Paolino said there are concerns about people mixing trash with recyclables. Denise L. DiFranco understands mixed trash, but she thinks cardboard would be helping us. Anthony Renzi, Chair of the planning board, Central Pike, said the issue is that we are allowed 2000 tons of garbage and we pay \$70 a ton. Anything over that, we pay \$120 per ton. And we went 1,700 lbs. over. So there are two things that need to be done: 1. The business dumpsters are number one; 2. Someone should go and cut a new deal with the land fill. 2000 tons is not enough; and also, don't pick up garbage from businesses. And then we have to do something about people putting out couches.

- 19. Sec. 18-2. – Recyclable receptacles.
 - Section is not moving forward with recommendation. Recycling is adequately covered under Chapter 28.
- 20. Sec. 18-32. - Penalty for violation of article; authority.
 - Recommendation to make the one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine for violation of the Noise article (Article II) of chapter 18 applicable to all articles of chapter 18.
- 21. Sec. 24-35 – Organization
 - Recommendation for a Recording Clerk to be present at the Planning Board meetings. Recording Clerk would not be a member of the Planning Board.

Recommendation to allow for one Planning Board meeting per month, opposed to two.

Recommendations are made pursuant to RIGL 45-22-5(a) and this section.

Cheryl Hawes asked if the recording is submissible in court, why can't a recording be done and give the minutes to someone else. Mr. McGregor said we are currently doing that because their secretary is on vacation, but that would be more effective because it wouldn't have to take 2 to 3 hours to try to figure out who said what at a meeting because people don't say their names at a meeting and it would save time. David Paolino said it is more effective. Ms. Hawes said they're already being paid, it's not like they are being paid to attend the meetings. It could be, like it is here, that people have to state their names. Denise L. DiFranco asked if the State is saying we have to have that? Mr. McGregor said no, it's not the State. Kelli Russ said it's in the budget he is submitting.

Anna Rao said we go ahead and do that.

22. Sec. 38-3 Penalty for violation of chapter

- Recommendation to refer to the zoning official as the zoning enforcement officer. Recommendation to increase the fine for a zoning violation from \$100.00 to \$500.00 if the matter causing repeated violation is not alleviated fourteen (14) days after imposition of fine. Heidi Rogers asked if that increase from \$100 to \$500 automatically. Mr. McGregor said yes, after 14 days.

Denise L. DiFranco asked three times if anyone would like to speak in favor of the ordinances.

There were none.

Denise L. DiFranco asked three times if anyone would like to speak against the ordinances.

There were none.

B. 2nd Hearing –Zoning

Cheryl Hawes read the advertisement.

Denise L. DiFranco opened the Public Hearing and noted that this is a second hearing so the council can vote on it. Grant McGregor reviewed the proposed ordinances.

1. Sec. 8-216 – Classes

- Recommendation to amend the zoning districts in which Class A kennel licenses are permitted. Recommendation to specify uses that are not subject to a Class B kennel license. Recommendation to cite uses to which boarding kennels do not apply as found in RIGL4-19-2(19) and RIGL 4-19-6(c).

2. Sec. 8-221 – Fees

- Recommendation to amend fees for breeding kennels to match RIGL 4-13-10. Recommendation for hearing to be held by the Planning Board or review to be conducted by the Administrative Officer. Whichever is applicable.

Gina Lindell, Foster Center Road, asked how many dogs constitute a kennel. Mr. McGregor said five.

Denise L. DiFranco said only if they are not your dogs. David Paolino said they had a lot of trouble with kennels recently; it's best for the planning board to do

it because they are the experts and have time to do the research.

Anna Rao, Central Pike, it is five and more, do they have licenses if they bite somebody? Denise L.

DiFranco said there is a list of requirements they have to meet. Ms. Rao said that has to be included. David Paolino said that is in the license application.

Heidi Rogers asked how detailed a plan is required.

Mr. McGregor said there are 22 stipulations, and the planning board can choose to wave some of those.

3. Sec. 8-222 – Renewal

- Recommendation to specify that renewals of kennel licenses do not require Planning Board or Administrative Officer review. Recommendation to specify that renewals of kennel licenses require no public hearing. Recommendation to specify that Class A kennel licenses are issued by the Town Clerk pursuant to RIGL 4-13-10. Recommendation to specify that Class B kennel licenses are issued by the Town Council pursuant to RIGL 4-19-6(b).

4. Sec. 12-31 - Renewal or transfer

- Recommendation to include initial applications in the current regulations for renewal or transfer of a business license. Recommendation to require an applicant for initial application, renewal or transfer to present the requirements specified in this section to the Town Council at a public hearing prior to or in conjunction with the license being granted by the Town Council.

5. Sec. 12-34 – License for sale of alcohol.

- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for sale of alcohol to \$500.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.

6. Sec. 12-35 – License for entertainment

- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for entertainment to \$300.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.

7. Sec. 12-36 – License for campground

- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for campground to \$100.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.

8. Sec. 12-37 – License for hotel/motel

- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for hotel/motel to \$100.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.

9. Sec. 12-38 - License for pawn shop

- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for pawn shop to \$100.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.

10. Sec. 12-39 – License for sale of secondhand articles

- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for sale of secondhand articles to \$100.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.

11. Sec. 12-40 – License for private detective

- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for private detective to \$100.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.
12. Sec. 12-41 – License for theater
- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for theater to \$100.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.
13. Sec. 12-42 – License for auto repair
- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for auto repair to \$100.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.
14. Sec. 12-43 – License for preparing food (Victualling)
- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for preparing food (Victualling) to \$100.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.
15. Sec. 12-44 – License for automobile junkyard
- Recommendation to increase the annual renewal fee for automobile junkyard to \$100.00. New junkyards are prohibited.
16. Sec. 12-45 – License for flea market
- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for flea market to \$100.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.
17. Sec. 12-46 – License for retail/holiday sales
- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for retail/holiday sales to \$100.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match initial license fee.
18. Sec. 12-47 – License for gravel banks, natural material processing, stone crushing and sorting, mining, quarrying
- Recommendation to increase the initial license fee for Industrial use #21 to \$100.00. Recommendation for annual renewal fee to match annual license fee. Recommendation to require an inspection to be made by the Zoning Enforcement Officer annually prior to renewal of a license for Industrial use #21. Recommendation to include conditions for restoration of land upon discontinuance of use.
- Mike Carpenter, planning board, Danielson Pike, said they need to change the grade percentage because there aren't machines that can grade that.
19. Sec. 12-96 – Application fee; renewal fee
- Recommendation to increase the license application fee for a firearms dealer's license to \$100.00. Fee for issuance of license shall remain \$5.00 pursuant to RIGL 11-47-39(4).
20. Sec. 12-162 - License issuance; fees; limitations.
- Recommendation to increase the fee for a Hawker's license to \$100.00; Peddler's license to \$100.00; and Mass Gathering permit to \$300.00. Recommendation to remove minimum fees for Hawker; Peddler; Mobile food establishment licenses, Event permit; and Mass Gathering permit.
- Julia Chretien said the subsection she added has not been advertised yet.
21. Sec. 26-121 – Site plan review fees.

- Recommendation to amend the subdivision application fees as stated in this section to be amended to match the current subdivision application fee specified in chapter 32 and on the relevant subdivision application forms.
22. Sec. 38-63 – Powers and duties.
- Recommendation to amend the powers and duties of the zoning board of review pursuant to RIGL 45-24-57.
23. Sec. 38-64 – Voting.
- Recommendation to amend the procedures for voting by the zoning board of review pursuant to RIGL 45-24-57.
24. Sec. 38-65 – Application procedure.
- Recommendation to remove the provision for filing for site plan review pursuant to RIGL 45-24-58 as amended.
25. Sec. 38-67 – Decisions and records.
- Recommendation to amend the timeframe, mailing, and sound recording device procedures for the zoning board of review when deciding upon an application pursuant to RIGL 45-24-61.
26. Sec. 38-232 – Existence by variance or special-use permit.
- Recommendation to state that the planning board may issue a variance or special-use permit pursuant to RIGL 45-24-46.4 as amended and RIGL 45-23-50.1 as amended.
27. Sec. 38-359 – Land development projects.
- Recommendation to regulate and include special provisions for land developments creating more than one residential dwelling and/or a subdivision creating or extending a road. Recommendation of updates required to meet RIGL 45-24-47 as amended.
- Heidi Rogers clarified that any new roads would have to be private roads? Mr. McGregor said yes, for now they would be private roads.
- Anthony Renzi, Central Pike, planning board chair, said the reason we are putting private roads in for development reasons is so when I wanted to extend the road, I was told it's not on the five-year road plan, we're not putting a road in. If you put it in, you pay for it and you maintain it. So it cost me \$100,000 to continue Central Pike. What we propose to do, if someone wants to develop 50-60 acres, they put in their own road. The town could offer to maintain that road for a fee.
- Anna Rao, Central Pike, wanted to know what part of Central Pike it was. Mr. Renzi said the other end.
28. Sec. 38-387 – Pre-submission conference.
- Recommendation to add the intentions of pre-application conferences pursuant to RIGL 45-24-48
29. Sec. 38-388 – Contents of site plan.
- Recommendation to change the term “vesting rights” to “vested rights.” Recommendation to refer to the “town planner” as the “administrative officer” for consistency with RIGL 45-23-32(1) and Sec 32-5.

30. Sec. 38-467 – Development not requiring planning board or zoning board approval.

- Recommendation to refer to the “building inspector” as the “building official.”

Denise L. DiFranco asked three time if anyone would like to speak in favor of the ordinances.

Denise L. DiFranco asked three times if anyone would like to speak in opposition of the ordinances.

There were none.

Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing and opened it to the council.

Denise L. DiFranco said she asked Julia Chretien if Heidi Rogers should recuse herself from [voting on] the license for hotel or motel. Ms. Chretien said she does not because there is no benefit to her. David Paolino asked what if she voted no?

Heidi Rogers said she could remove some, for example for a definition of “theater”.

Denise L. DiFranco said to remove 12-37, license for hotel or motel, 12-41 license for theater, and 12-47 license for gravel banks, natural materials, mining, quarrying.

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the following recommendations from the planning board as presented:

- Sec. 8-216 Classes
- Sec. 8-221 Fees
- Sec. 8-222 Renewal
- Sec. 12-31 Renewal or Transfer
- Sec. 12-34 License for sale of alcohol
- Sec. 12-35 License for entertainment
- Sec. 12-36 License for campground
- Sec. 12-38 License for pawn shop
- Sec. 12-39 License for sale of secondhand articles
- Sec. 12-40 License for private detective
- Sec. 12-42 License for auto repair
- Sec. 12-43 License for preparing food (Victualling)
- Sec. 12-44 License for automobile junkyard
- Sec. 12-45 License for flea market
- Sec. 12-46 License for retail/holiday sales
- Sec. 12-96 Application fee, renewal fee
- Sec. 26-121 Site plan review fees
- Sec. 38-63 Powers and duties
- Sec. 38-64 Voting
- Sec. 38-65 Application procedure
- Sec. 38-67 Decisions and records
- Sec. 38-232 Existence by variance or special-use permit.
- Sec. 38-359 Land development projects
- Sec. 38-387 Pre-submission conference
- Sec. 38-388 Contents of site plan.
- Sec. 38-367 Development not requiring planning board or zoning board approval.

David Paolino seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Police Building Update

Cheryl Hawes moved, David Paolino seconded, to approve Sec. 12-37 License for hotel / motel

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 4 – 1 with one recusal.

Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye. Heidi Rogers, recused.

Denise L. DiFranco said she met with Mr. Walsh, Representative Chippendale, and Senator Reed this week to see if there were any monies available on the Federal level. Sen. Reed said they do not have monies for the police department, but they do for the fire department. They took a tour of the police station and took lots of pictures. This week also she had a luncheon with the governor at the State House along with Scituate, Coventry, Charlestown, and we discussed what our concerns were, one of which was the ordinances and we expressed that we were not cookie cutter. When she was asked what our concern was, she stated that we have no revenue other than our taxpayers and we need a new police station, so she asked him for \$3 million. They suggested they reach out to our senator and representative. She replied that they had. Mr. Walsh and Rep. Chippendale are looking at the budget and are hopeful for \$2.5 million.

Kelli Russ said she spoke with Gordon [Brayton] regarding the architect because we had not heard and we need to know by April. They say they are finalizing a quote to draw up a new plan. We may have to schedule another meeting so we can get going on a new RFP.

Anthony Renzi, Central Pike, said the problem is that we are taking a nine million project and turning it into a four million dollar project. Reading the *Valley Breeze* today, Glocester is going for remodeling or a new building. 13 million dollars for a 9,000 sq. ft. police station. They are at \$780 per square foot. We are at \$1,500. This architect knew we only had 4.5 million from the get go, and he puts out a product that costs us 9 million. As a taxpayer, and a building committee member, when I read in the paper that they are going to have a police station almost double ours for 4 million dollars more. It doesn't seem right. And they got two grants.

Chief Lindell said Denise L. DiFranco is working very hard on this and she thought the visit they had was helpful and she is confident we will get something. She also said we are working on getting new police officers. We are out there as much as we can.

Mass Gathering Ordinance

Julia Chretien said there were amendments to the ordinance for mass gatherings. She had put something out again. She suggested taking out the public hearing requirements for a town sponsored event:

“For any event where the Town, through a Department and/or Committee, is a sponsor and/or coordinator of the event, no public hearing shall be required for the issuance of any event or temporary mass gathering permit. The Town Council may issue such event and/or temporary mass gathering permit(s) at a regularly scheduled public meeting of the Town Council upon presentation by the Department and/or Committee associated with the event. Any application for an event and/or temporary mass gathering permit made by a Town Department and/or Committee is still subject to all other above-described requirements.”

Ms. Chretien said the change has to be advertised as a public hearing and heard twice.

2. Appointment of
Technical Review
Committee Members

Heidi Rogers moved to appoint the following to the Technical Review Committee: Anthony Renzi, Michael Carpenter, Susan Joyce, David Paolissi, Bill Gibb, Warren Ducharme, and Hilary Downes-Fortune and Grant McGregor as the Chair. David Paolino seconded.
Motion passed 5 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Heidi Rogers moved that the individuals appointed to the Technical Review Committee serve the term of the planning board. David Paolino seconded.
Motion passed 5 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
1. ~~Foster Gloucester~~
~~Regional School Budget~~
~~Presentation moved~~
2. Budget Workshop and
Adoption Dates

Kelli Russ explained the Budget Schedule and noted that it had gone out to all the department heads. David Paolino moved to accept the dates for the Budget Schedule for Fiscal Year 2025: March 5, 2024 at 4:30, March 7, 2024 at 4:30, March 12, 2024 at 4: 30 and March 21, 2024 at 4:30. Heidi Rogers seconded.
Discussion: None.
Motion passed 4 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5,
(A), (2) Contracts
1. Lease Agreement
Extension between Town
and Foster Center
Volunteer Fire Company
re: MVM Holdings Lease
Extension
Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5,
(A), (1) Personnel
1. Anthony Renzi – Chair
of Planning Board
2. Grant McGregor -
Planner

David Paolino moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 for a work session regarding Contracts according to RIGL 42-46-5(A),(2) and Personnel and Job Performance according to RIGL 42-46-5-(A)2 and to reconvene into open session and to further keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all executive sessions held previous to this meeting remain closed in accordance with provisions in RIGL 42-46-4 & 5.
No discussion.
Motion passed 4 – 1, with one recusal. Heidi Rogers recused.

The council reconvened in to Open Session at 7:55 p.m. Denise L. DiFranco announced that one vote was taken in Executive Session to move Item Personnel to the first item.
Motion passed 4 - 0.
Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk

February 21, 2024

To the Foster Town Council:

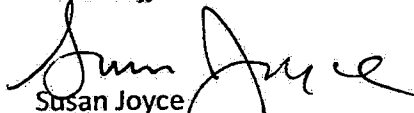
I am writing in support of Anthony Renzi, who has been called before the Town Council—although I am not clear as to why he has been summoned.

Is it because he didn't recognize Gordon Rogers as DPW Director at the January 24, 2024 Planning Board meeting? Anthony expressed a very reasonable concern. If the Town Council wanted to keep Mr. Rogers on in a holdover capacity, they should not have voted on whether to renew his contract. However they did take a vote, it failed, and no subsequent vote was taken to determine who would act as interim director. Nor did the Council provide any explanation as to why Mr. Rogers was still acting as director except for a vague, unsubstantiated reference to an evergreen contract. So again, Anthony raised a valid concern.

Or is it because Anthony raised his voice at the meeting? If that is the case, then perhaps a reprimand is in order—people representing the town in an official capacity should behave in a civil and respectful manner. But it would be hypocritical to single Anthony out for this while ignoring the behavior of others.

Anthony and I disagree on many things. However, we share a common goal—serving the best interest of this town. As Planning Board Chair, Anthony has put in a great deal of work and as a result we have begun to make progress addressing some of Camoin's recommendations—consultants hired by this Council. I am thankful for Anthony's efforts. And I appreciate the fact that while he may hold strong opinions, he listens to—and is sometimes swayed by—contrary arguments. This allows for differences of opinion to be discussed and considered, and why I feel our Planning Board works efficiently and effectively on behalf of the town.

Sincerely,


Susan Joyce
Planning Board Member

February 5, 2024

To the Foster Town Council:

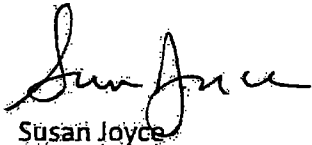
As a member of the Foster Planning Board, I wish to convey my full support for Grant McGregor, Town Planner.

In less than a year on the job, Grant has made an extraordinary contribution to this town. His dedication, thoroughness, and willingness to work long hours, often seven days a week, is the reason the town has kept up with the tight timeline dictated by the state to bring our ordinances into compliance. All while managing the day-to-day demands on a town planning department.

Grant is highly qualified for the job of Town Planner. What he doesn't have is years of work experience that would help him navigate all the nuances and personalities of a small-town government. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all of us who work with him to provide maximum support and guidance. The town of Foster is lucky to have him.

This Town Council hired a consultancy firm who outlined a strategy for economic growth. If Foster is to achieve any of these goals, we cannot—repeatedly—lose highly qualified personnel. The town needs Grant, and he has already demonstrated that he deserves our support.

Sincerely,



Susan Joyce
Planning Board Member