

**Foster Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday December 5, 2005
Eddy Building 7pm**

The Foster Conservation Commission meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm; in attendance were Mike Wood, Fran Johnson, Judy Helfgott, Ruth Rogers, Marilyn Flanders and Don Manley. Ed Creighton was excused. In the audience were Ronald Cervasio and Vice President of the Town Council, Steve Bellucci.

Correspondence:

1. **Ordinance Revision Request** – The members of the Conservation Commission were asked to look into any ordinance revisions that they feel might be needed in order for the various ordinances in Town to comply with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

2. **Natural History Survey Flyer** – Nancy will see that it gets in on time.

3. **Onsite Wastewater Training Center Information** – Information regarding this training and other classes available at URI was given to the Commission members.

Before going on to the minutes, Chair Mike Wood spoke out and apologized for canceling the last meeting because he wasn't feeling well.

At this point, Judy Helfgott spoke out and asked to say a few things in regards to the meeting being cancelled. She felt that the meeting should still have been held because there was a quorum and that she didn't think Chair was following correct procedures by doing this. The Chair responded that it was his choice to do so. She went on to further voice her concern even though he apologized. The Chair also stated that he was concerned about the lack of experience because most of the members were new and felt that the agenda items could be held over to another meeting.

Ron Cervasio, a non-member in the audience spoke up and asked where he (Mike Wood) got the idea that a Chair was allowed to do this. The Chair responded that it was his decision alone and that he was very ill at the time. Mr. Cervasio went on to further say that he read the Town Charter several times and never found any mention in the Charter that this was allowed.

Judy Helfgott spoke up again regarding another concern that she had regarding the October or November

Approval of Minutes: Ruth Rogers moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2005 as amended, the amendment being the addition of (absent were Karl Bodensiek and Don Manley) Marilyn Flanders seconded, motion carried 6-0.

New Business:

1. **Appointment of Secretary** – The Chair, Mike Wood appointed Marilyn Flanders to the position of Secretary but she respectfully declined. Therefore, Judy Helfgott will remain Secretary Pro-Tem.

2. **Appointment of Land Trust Liaison** – The Chair, Mike Wood appointed Don Manley to the serve as liaison to the Land Trust. Judy Helfgott spoke up and said that she would like to

be considered for that position. The Chair said that he has already made his decision for Mr. Manley to be the liaison. Mr. Cervasio spoke up from the audience stating that he felt that the Chair couldn't just appoint the Liaison to the Land Trust, that there had to be a vote. Mr. Bellucci also expressed his concern regarding this matter. Marilyn Flanders moved to vote on the appointment of a Liaison to the Land Trust, Ruth Rogers seconded, Chair, Mike Wood refused to acknowledge the motion, this item will be tabled until the next meeting in order to further research this matter.

3. Ordinance Review – Chair Mike Wood asked if the Commission members had any ordinance revisions /recommendations to hand in, the members had only made some notes so the Chair asked if they could type up their recommendations for the next meeting.

Mr. Cervasio brought up a zoning ordinance pertaining to the setback requirements for septic systems, specifically the newer systems and that the Commission may want to look into this further for their ordinance revision proposal.

Old Business

1. **Recycling** – Mike Wood stated that he would look into the possibility of having a “Transfer Station” set up, discussion followed regarding this subject with participation from the audience members.

The general feeling was that this was a good idea but that it would need further analysis regarding security and the cost involved.

Ideas to encourage more recycling in Foster was also discussed between the Commission and audience members.

Adjournment: Judy Helfgott moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm, Ruth Rogers seconded, motion carried 6-0, meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Future Agenda Items

1. Appoint a Land Trust Liaison
2. Ordinance Review
3. Recycling Update
4. Election of Officers

Respectfully submitted:

Judith Helfgott
Secretary - **ProTem**