

Foster Conservation Commission Meeting
Monday June 19, 2006
Eddy Building 7pm

The Foster Conservation Commission meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm; in attendance were Mike Wood, Don Manley, Ruth Rogers, Fran Johnson and Marilyn Flanders. Ed Creighton and Judy Helfgott were excused.

Approval of Minutes: Mike Wood moved to approve the minutes of April 18, 2006, Marilyn Flanders seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Old Business

1. Recycling Ideas – Before the discussion of recycling ideas started, Fran Johnson asked the Chair why her letter regarding recycling hadn't been sent out to the residents yet. Ruth stated that she had been very busy with an illness in the family and hadn't had a chance to follow through on the status of the letter. Fran asked if it could be located and sent out. Ruth agreed that the letter should be sent out. It was discussed as to how this would proceed from here because the deadline for having it run in the Foster Home Journal had gone by. Don Manley thought maybe it would be too time consuming to send them out bulk mail rather than to wait and insert them into the next issue of the Foster Home Journal.

Following further discussion Fran Johnson moved that she and Mike Wood would look into the best way of sending out the recycling letter and make sure it gets out, Mike Wood seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Don Manley reported about what he had found out regarding the grant money that Central Falls received for reaching their recycling goals. He spoke to the Highway Director in Central Falls who was a great help and told him to contact Mike Mesolella from Rhode Island Resource Recovery for more advice on recycling incentives. Mr. Manley passed out some of the information he had gathered regarding the application for grants.

Mr. Manley stated that Central Falls had an educational program as well as having another enforcement method. Mr. Mesolella also mentioned he hadn't seen any case where the educational programs had ever been enough. He said he would be willing to come out and talk to the Commission, he also mentioned that at this time none of the towns are getting fined, that it hadn't gone through yet. The cost right now is the over tonnage charge that the town has to pay if they go over their allowed amount as stated in the contract. Mr. Manley stated if Foster had a method of passing out bags and stickers this would limit the amount of trash a resident could put out and it wouldn't require any policing because if an item didn't have a sticker, then it wouldn't be picked up.

2. Earth Day Outcome & Suggestions – There didn't seem to be a very good turnout because of the bad weather. Ruth Rogers suggested having a rain date set for next year and also to give out tickets for a cookout or to have Dunkin Donuts supply coffee and donuts. It was also suggested to get an earlier start planning for Earth Day next year.

Don Manley suggested setting goals in general for next year to make sure things are planned for on time.

Mike Wood suggested having a follow up Earth Day sometime in September and to ask Mike Mesolella for his input.

3. Recycling article from Central Falls – This was discussed above with Don Manley report for recycling ideas.

4. Prior Gravel Bank – Discussion regarding Mike Woods draft letter regarding the Prior Gravel which is to be sent to RI DEM. Fran Johnson felt that Mike had done a great job of indicating to them the items that they required that they may need to go back and look at.

Don Manley thought that the last time the Commission met, it was discussed that if this letter is sent out to RIDEM and they don't come out and investigate, that the Commission would at that point drop the issue because they would have done what they needed to do.

Fran Johnson stated that she couldn't accept that and as Commission members we should not sign off on this matter. She went on to say that the Commission should remind the Building Official by sending a copy of this letter to him as well.

Don Manley felt that if the Commission has done what it needed to do that more time shouldn't be spent on this one issue after the letter goes out and that the Commission needs to move on. He felt all along that it only comes down to one issue and that the Building Official doesn't have the authority to do anything with this because he isn't an engineer.

Fran felt regardless of the Building Official not having the qualifications or not, that the Town was still obligated to enforce the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance and that we as a Commission still has to respond to the situation.

The discussion continued with the outcome being;

Don Manley moved to send out the letter written by Mike Wood to RIDEM and cc the Building Official and to include a cover letter from the Commission restating the concerns and send that also to the Planning Board, Fran Johnson seconded, motion carried 5-0.

New Business

1. Old Home Days – The Commission started discussing what the theme for Old Home Days would be along with ideas for raffles and incentives. Don Manley offered to help set things up on Friday of Old Home Days but he wouldn't be available any other time during that weekend. Ruth Rogers also said she would be able to help out on Friday. She will call Ed Creighton and Judy Helfgott to see what their availability would be. Mike Wood would be available a few hours each day, Friday, Saturday and Sunday but would have to do Preservation also.

Fran Johnson asked if maybe Mike Mesolella could have some compost bins on display for people to learn about and maybe get some North/South trail maps, bluebird kits etc.. from the Town Hall.

2. Five-Year Road Plan Review – The discussion started with the condition of Balcom Road and how certain parts of it are in need of a lot of maintenance. Fran Johnson thought that the road project should have come before the Conservation Commission first. Scott Ulrickson, a resident of the road, had written a letter and cc'd the Conservation Commission regarding this

road and his concerns about the blasting work. The Plan has been approved already which really shouldn't have been done until the Commission had reviewed and commented on it. Fran Johnson stated that she hoped from here on out things would be done properly and that the Commission would be given things ahead of time to review.

Don Manley suggested writing a letter to the Town Council that the Commission didn't appreciate not being able to review this as they are supposed to and would appreciate from here on out being able to do so.

Fran Johnson moved to write a letter to the Planning Board, Department of Public Works and cc the Town Council stating that the Conservation Commission be included as they should be for reviewing Town Plans and Ordinances, Mike Wood seconded, discussion followed, Fran Johnson volunteered to write the letter, all in favor, motion carried 5-0.

3. Florence Hicks major subdivision – This was reviewed briefly by the Commission, unfortunately it was discovered after the meeting that it was discussed as another parcel with the same last name in error. Mike Wood moved to table this item until more information could be obtained, Don Manley seconded, motion carried 5-0.

4. Resignation/Election of a new Chair for the Commission – Ruth Rogers needs to resign as Chair due to an unexpected family matter. Marilyn Flanders, Vice- Chair should have become Chair as per the bylaws, but she did not want that position, so Ruth will run the next meeting until the election of new Chair takes place. Mike Wood moved to table this item until the full Commission could be present for voting, Fran Johnson seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Future Agenda Items:

Old Home Days

Recycling Ideas Continued

Adjournment: Don Manley moved to adjourn at 9:30pm, Mike Wood seconded, motion carried 5-0, meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Fran Johnson
Acting Secretary