



Foster Conservation Commission Minutes

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ben Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Mike Wood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Roll Call

In attendance were Mike Wood, Chair, Judy Helfgott, Ruth Rogers, George Christie, Marcia Bowden, Secretary. Scott Ulricksen and Ed Creighton were absent.

Guest: Chris Iozzi

Correspondence

- Looked at new recycling flyers from RIRRC. These will be included in each tax bill and also distributed at Old Home Days.
- Examined RIRRC Municipal Report. Noted that we have already reached 99.2% of Foster's cap with two more months of the fiscal year to go.
- Read the BioBlitz flyer, which is an invitation to a species count at Trustom Pond in June.

Approval of Minutes

George moved to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2007, with the addition of changes as noted. Judy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mike *aye*, Judy *aye*, Ruth *aye*, George *aye*, Marcia *aye*.

Old Business

1. Land and Water Conservation Summit reports:
 - a. Marcia Bowden reported on the governance workshops she attended, stressing the need for clarifying the commission's mission. She also mentioned the training workshop in which most state conservation commissions expressed concerns about being included in the regulatory process for subdivisions.
 - b. Marcia Bowden also mentioned Scott Ulricksen's report citing need for vernal pool protection. George Christie suggested that rather than add another regulatory layer, that the Commission use education to protect these sensitive areas.
 - c. George Christie explained a town Conservation Inventory program, which was one of the workshops he attended. This led to a discussion of the necessity to prepare one for Foster. Mike Wood subsequently appointed George Christie, Judy Helfgott, and Marcia Bowden to a subcommittee to prepare a Conservation Inventory. The subcommittee will begin by establishing a protocol based on the notes George took at the Summit workshop. The subcommittee will then list lots of twenty acres or larger, identify those which are ripe for development, and apply the protocol. In this way, when builders and developers come before the planning board, the Conservation Commission will have an environmental impact study at hand. The subcommittee will begin to update the existing Environmental Inventory, starting with these larger lots of twenty acres or more. Logistics include contacting every property owner and requesting permission to walk their land. Mike Wood suggested asking the Town Council for ID tags. After the subcommittee comes up with a firm plan of action, a letter will be drafted to the Council on this issue.

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2. Stone Wall Report
Marcia Bowden gave a brief description of Robert Thorson's lecture at the Scituate Conservation Commission's Annual Meeting.
3. Earth Day
Judy Helfgott and Mike Wood commended Boy Scout Troop 101 on their excellent work cleaning up Cucumber Hill Road and Rte 94. A letter of appreciation will be sent to the Troop.

New Business

1. Mike Wood announced that Scott Ulricksen was appointed a full member by the Town Council and that Chris Iozzi was appointed alternate member by the Council.
2. Mike appointed George Christie as Land Trust Liaison.
3. Mike postponed election of Vice Chair.
4. It was determined that there was not enough time left in the school year to sponsor the poster/essay contest. Mike Wood will write a letter to the Town Council explaining this. Judy Helfgott suggested starting the contest in the fall of '07, with prizes to be awarded on Earth Day, 2008. The announcement of the contest will begin with a poster designed by guest Chris Iozzi and will be on display at Old Home Days. George will contact the Family Science teachers at the Middle and High schools to involve them in the contest. Judy will contact the elementary schools.
5. No one on the Commission attended the Drinking Water program. Mike Wood will check with URI and see if we can jointly sponsor a program in Foster so that residents can get water analyzed for a low fee.
6. Old Home Days preliminary schedule is as follows:
Friday: 4-8 Ruth Rogers and Marcia Bowden
Saturday: 12-4 Judy Helfgott, 4-8 George Christie and Chris Iozzi
Sunday: 12-3 George Christie
7. George suggested that we have an interactive booth at Old Home Days, which includes, but is not limited to recycling. MaxMan will be there as well as the recycling brochures. Judy reminded us to set up recycling bins, which were not at last year's Old Home days. Ideas for Old Home Days displays include: Scott preparing one on amphibians, copies of the environmental inventory protocol, copies of environmental surveys for residents to complete, map with pushpins for residents to indicate what part of Foster they deem worthy of preservation.

Future Agenda Items

- Finalize Old Home Days plans
- Develop goals and mission based on the Comprehensive plan
- Elect vice chairperson
- Recycling
- Finalize School Essay/Poster Contest details

Adjournment

Judy moved to adjourn the meeting. Ruth seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Mike *aye*, Judy *aye*, Ruth *aye*, George *aye*, Marcia *aye*. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Bowden, Secretary