



Foster Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 18, 2007

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

A. Call to Order

Mike Wood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

B. Roll Call

In attendance were: Mike Wood, Chair; Marcia Bowden, Secretary; Judy Helfgott, Ruth Rogers, George Christie, Scott Ulricksen, Chris Iozzi.

C. Correspondence

1. Presented Coastal Features Newsletter from CRMC
2. Reviewed May 2007 RIRRC report, noting we are over cap. Judy questioned the “max mun recy in-paper & mixed” 713 tonnage figure. Mike will call for explanation.
3. Accepted Ed Creighton’s resignation letter; Marcia Bowden will follow up with letter of note for his service, especially his contribution to the bluebird and bat house workshops.
4. Discussed CNN/ProJo/Audubon report on decline of common birds
5. Heard summary of environmental inventory subcommittee’s progress to date. They are working on the protocol. George Christie will have the database up and running soon. Mike Wood appointed Marcia Bowden to be Chair of the Subcommittee. The next meeting for the subcommittee is Tuesday, June 26, 2007. Marcia will call Kris Chin to see if the Foster Library is available for a meeting room. Time and agenda will be posted.
6. Read letter from Town Planner Ann-Marie Ignasher. She cited two projects ‘where the input of the Conservation Commission would be greatly appreciated’:
 - a. designation of scenic roads, and
 - b. input regarding maps of the Scituate Watershed Greenspace project.

She requested a reply regarding the commission’s willingness to assist with these projects. Marcia Bowden asked to draft a response, and Mike Wood replied that he’d get back to the Board regarding Ann-Marie’s letter.

D. Approval of Minutes

George Christie moved to accept the minutes of May 21, 2007, as read. Judy Helfgott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions. Mike Wood *aye*, Judy Helfgott *aye*, Ruth Rogers *aye*, George Christie *aye*, Marcia Bowden *aye*. Chris Iozzi and Scott Ulricksen abstained.

E. Reports

1. George Christie, Land Trust liaison, asked where in the agenda he should be making his reports. Mike Wood suggested putting it under correspondence, but Judy Helfgott suggested putting it under “Reports”. All agreed. George reported on the most recent Land Trust meeting. The Trust is in the process of acquiring the Hopkins property on Ram’s Tail Road. There are 25 acres, and it protects yet another section of the Ponaganset River. The Trust has received a grant for part of the purchase.

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2. Marcia Bowden, planning board liaison, will also write brief reports of Planning Board meetings for the Reports section of the agenda.

F. Old Business

1. Election of Vice Chair: Mike opened the floor for nominations for vice-chair. Judy nominated George. Mike nominated Scott. Scott remarked that he'd have more time for Commission activities now. George deferred to Scott; Judy withdrew her nomination. Mike called for a vote and Scott was unanimously elected vice-chair. Mike *aye*, Judy *aye*, Ruth *aye*, George *aye*, Marcia *aye*, Chris *aye*, Scott *aye*.
2. Stone Wall Preservation report: Mike said that this was covered last week and we'll let it go for now.
3. Drinking Water Testing Program: Mike apologized for not calling on this and said it will carry over to next month.
4. Plans for Old Home Days:
 - a. On either Wednesday, July 25th, or Thursday, July 26th, Scott and Mike will take the panels from the Town Hall attic and set them up in the Old Town House.
 - b. The schedule for the booth is:
 - Friday, 4–8 p.m.: Ruth and Marcia
 - Saturday, 12–4 p.m.: Judy and Mike; 4–8 p.m.: George and Chris
 - Sunday, 12–3 p.m.: George and Mike
 - c. Scott will donate two blue 55 barrel drums for recyclables. Mike will make sure there will be enough recycling bins and arrange for disposal of same.
 - d. Judy, George, and Marcia will provide environmental survey sheets for town residents to fill out. They will set up a map so that people can put pushpins in their favorite locations in town.
 - e. Scott will provide a display of amphibians
 - f. Mike will provide a display of photographs taken of Earth Day participants.
 - g. Mike will display bluebird and bat houses.
5. George suggested that we start thinking ahead to next year's Old Home Days and start compiling a bibliography of websites or print resources that relate to environmental concerns.
6. Judy asked about the Conservation Commission website. We do not have one on the Town's website. Scott and Chris will contact Randy Rossi and start working to create one.

G. New Business

The following points were made during a discussion of both Section 6.2 of the Comprehensive Plan and developing goals and mission:

1. George Christie suggested putting together a list of things we are charged with, noting the other agencies involved. He then wants to write letters to those agencies stating that we are ready to assist them in that particular project as the comprehensive plan mandates. He feels it will be good to have these letters on file.

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2. Judy Helfgott noted that only one mandate listed only the Conservation Commission, and that is “to provide a water conservation education program for self-supplied well water users”. She suggested that we start with that one as we are the only agency listed.
3. Mike Wood and George Christie discussed the Scituate Reservoir Management Plan as listed under 6.2.6. Marcia Bowden asked where the plan was; Mike Wood asked her to find it in the Town Hall.
4. Marcia Bowden will ask Julia Parmentier for the material on the Scenic Roads project.
5. Marcia Bowden will ask about the overlay maps.
6. George Christie urged the creation of a list of mandates as listed in the Comprehensive Plan. Marcia Bowden suggested including projects we’re already working on, have been requested to do, and ones which have been accomplished in the past. George remarked that when the Comprehensive Plan is updated, we’ll then have input as to goals and be active participants.
7. George Christie and Judy Helfgott discussed how to decide priorities of projects, and that woman/man power is at a premium. Judy suggested using volunteers. Marcia Bowden stated that volunteers are fine for projects like the bluebird and bat-house programs, Earth Day projects, etc, but that the work of the Commission must be done by Commission members. She urged members to attend meetings and to complete the tasks they’ve been assigned.

H. Future Agenda Items

1. Mike Wood, Chair, said he will get in touch with everyone in the next week for a special meeting, but it’s not straightened out in his mind what he wants it for yet.
2. Marcia Bowden, Secretary, referring to the by-laws which state that the secretary helps prepare the agenda, suggested that members submit their items of concern for agenda by the Wednesday before the Monday meeting. They will email, snail mail, phone these in to Carol Lyons, Planning Clerk. Marcia and Mike would meet on that Wednesday at Town Hall and write up the agenda. All agreed.

I. Adjournment

Judy Helfgott moved to adjourn at 9 p.m. Scott Ulricksen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously: Mike *aye*, George *aye*, Scott *aye*, Ruth *aye*, Judy *aye*, Chris *aye*, Marcia *aye*.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Bowden
Secretary