



**Foster Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 20, 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 7:03 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present were Mike Wood, Chair; Scott Ulricksen, Vice Chair, Marcia Bowden, Secretary, Chris Iozzi, Ruth Rogers, Scott Ulricksen, George Christie, and Judy Helfgott.

C. Correspondence:

1. RIDEM: Wetlands Application for Difazio Lot on Luther Rd. Commission will conduct site walk. Commission will ask Town Planner, Ann-Marie Ignasher to lead site walk. Date: Friday, September 14th at 4:00 p.m.
2. RIRRC Grant Award. Received \$3, 841.19 for meeting 20% recycling rate. Mike Wood complimented the Commission members on their efforts to meet this rate. This reward will be used for educational programs concerning recycling and consumer education.
3. RIRRC Monthly Report. Above 20% for July. Judy Helfgott suggested reminding people that lawn rakings and other garden debris should not be put out for trash pickup. She suggested putting out an ad to that effect, stressed in the next issue. Due date for the ad would be September 20th by 5:00 p.m.

D. Approval of Minutes

George Christie moved to approve the minutes with the correction of the date to July 16. Motion approved unanimously.

E. Reports

1. Marcia Bowden reported on the Champion Tree Program. Judy Helfgott moved to sponsor the Champion Tree program. Motion passed unanimously, *ayes*: Chris, Ruth, Mike, Scott, George, Judy, and Marcia. (Marcia Bowden left early due to illness.)
2. Land Trust Liaison-George Christie: The big issue for the Land Trust is stewardship of their approximately 500 acres. The Hayfield/Tikkannen properties are both hayfields; the Land Trust is considering haying them as fields, or mowing them once a year, although at this point the Land Trust has no money at this time to pay people. Calling for proposals on haying contracts: seeded, ploughed, replanted, manured as necessary. Later this fall, need to clear away the brush along the road frontage on Land Trust properties with volunteer effort.

F. Old Business

1. Old Home Days
 - a. Reports: environmental survey. Tabled to next meeting.
 - b. Suggestions for 2008: put trash and recycle barrels side by side, and mark recycling barrels with paint or larger signs. George Christie reported that the gatekeeper was quite rude about not letting him in as it was his understanding that workers/vendors should get in free. Ruth Rogers suggested that we should have passes in the future.

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3. Recycling

Mike Wood talked to Mike Mesolella and told him about the poster contest in the schools. Mesolella suggested getting a grant to pay top people 100-200 dollars. Mike suggested to Mesolella that we wanted to turn it over to the council and have them hire a part-time recycling director. Mr. Mesolella responded that this would be a great idea, and that a \$15,000 ó \$16,000 grant is available for that purpose. He further suggested hiring a knowledgeable person for that position to work 20 hours per week. He mentioned a few other things, such as grants of \$20,000-22,000 for other things. Mr. Mesolella will send email on Tuesday (August 21), which will include applications for the grant. Mike said that we have to go slow because the council doesn't know about this yet. We are in a position to get a decent amount of money to see if we can shift this from our purview and let it go to an expert.

4. Poster Contest

Discussion on when to start the contest. George Christie suggested waiting until February after mid-terms, exact date to be determined at next meeting. Lynne Donnelly has offered to be a liaison to the middle school. Mike Wood asked Chris Iozzi to get two more posters done by mid-October to be placed in the schools.

5. Recycling subcommittee

Mike said that the main purpose is to come up with the specifics of not only the contest, but time we have spent on this, which is time spent away from other things. We should have a proposal of what we would suggest for the future, besides the recycling director. Maybe will talk more about it when Mesolella sends his material.

6. George Christie: presentation of environmental inventory

George explained the purpose of the environmental inventory, which is to provide a detailed, non-judgmental description of a property, highlighting areas of concern for conservation. The goal is to eventually include every plat and lot in the inventory, but that is too immense a project to start with, so the sub-committee began with properties that are most likely to be targeted for development in the near future, specifically undeveloped land of 20 acres or more. George guided the Commission through the document, explaining the categories and criteria. He stressed that we need to start by prioritizing properties that are under pressure. He asked for Commission as a whole to look through it, email questions and comments to him.

G. New Business:

George Christie: presentation on compilation of tasks compiled from Comp Plan.

George led the discussion of the tasks which are currently being undertaken by the Commission, as well as the list of tasks which were completed, or attempted in the past.

Goals:

- to make sure we are doing what we should, acting within our purpose, evaluating tasks we've been assigned to do per the Comp Plan, the Council, requests from other boards and town agencies, as well as our own ideas.
- to make better use of our time on the numerous projects, i.e., utilizing volunteers for some projects
- to weed out tasks not appropriate for the Commission.
- to prioritize projects. George will compile all the suggestions and comments made during this session and will present it at the next meeting.

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H. Future agenda items

- Review of DiFazio site walk evaluation.
- Discuss Mike Wood's email communications from Mike Mesolella regarding grants.
- Review School schedules and set definite dates for poster contest.
- Discuss George's compilation of Commission members' comments on environmental inventory.
- Evaluate tasks of Commission as compiled by George.
- Discuss an Energy conservation project for the town, such as a windmill.

I. Adjournment.

Judy moved to adjourn the meeting. Ruth seconded it. It passed unanimously. Ayes: Chris, Ruth, Mike, Scott, George, Judy. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Bowden,
Secretary