



FOSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 17, 2007
Ben Eddy Bldg., 6 South Killingly Road, 7:00 p.m.

For reference purposes only- No quorum is (or will be) available among members present at that meeting to approve the minutes.

A. Call to Order

Scott Ulricksen, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Members present: Scott Ulricksen, Vice Chair, George Christie, Chris Iozzi, Judy Helfgott and Lucy Mintern. Mike Wood, Chair; and Marcia Bowden, Secretary, were excused. Lynne S. Rider, Town Council member was in the audience.

C. Correspondence

- Ways of the Woods request for funding of \$200. George Christie questions whether the Ways of the Woods traveling exhibit provides anything for Foster children that they cannot find in their own backyard. Lynne Rider points out that, having taught in Cranston for two years, the new generation of kids coming out here never go in their backyard. Their parents don't know what's out there, are afraid, and leave the spotlight on all night long. Judy Helfgott says that the information provided is what they should be getting in Science and Social Studies. This is more for the inner-city kids in Providence. George Christie points out that for \$200 we could buy two Audubon programs that we could advertise. They look like they're looking for funding but not providing much in return; does anybody ever read the sponsor lists? Scott Ulricksen says that we don't have time to promote it. George Christie said it sounds like Marcia Bowden may have suggested the sum of \$200, that it may not be what they requested. Judy Helfgott points out that there's no one here we can ask about it. Judy Helfgott moved that we do not fund the program. Chris Iozzi questioned whether we wanted more information. Judy points out that there is not enough time. George Christie says that the total operating budget for the Commission is small to begin with, and there are other programs we could get in Foster. Chris Iozzi seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- RIRRC Monthly Report, noted. George Christie questions if the percentage varies in accordance with the number of pick-up days per month. Some months may have less pick-up days, and it is worth looking into.
- Ruth Rogers's resignation letter is read by Scott Ulricksen. Judy Helfgott moved to accept with regret. George Christie seconded. Motion accepted unanimously. Scott moved to add sending letter of recommendation as an addendum to the motion. George seconded the amendment. Amendment accepted unanimously.
- Private Well Water Symposium Flyer, reviewed. Scott Ulricksen motioned to table for later review to see if someone wants to go. Judy Helfgott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Tree Council Flyer, reviewed. George Christie moved that if there were any members willing to go to it, that the Commission will reimburse the \$40 fee. Chris Iozzi seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
- RI Tree Council newsletter, reviewed. Noted was the Tree Steward program in September.
- RIDEM Significant Alteration Permit for Foster Fire Company, no action necessary.
- Copies of Narragansett Bay Journal are distributed.
- New England Recycling Council letter reviewed.

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D. Minutes

- George Christie moved to approve the minutes of August 20, 2007. Judy Helfgott seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Judy Helfgott moved to table the minutes of September 11, 2007 for further corrections to be made. Chris Iozzi seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Reports

- George Christie reports that he was out-of-town and could not attend the meetings. He was also unable to get a school schedule.
- Chris Iozzi reports that the Trash Rat cartoon for the *Foster Home Journal* is just about done and that it is about people putting yard waste in bags for the trash instead of composting. Suggestion that next month is Halloween and the use of pumpkin-colored plastic bags that people fill with leaves could be a topic. Lynne Rider follows up with an idea for December, about, people throwing out old Christmas trees. Judy Helfgott brings up the issue of Christmas gift boxes not being recycled and suggests giving out box cutters with recycle bins.
- Recycling Subcommittee. Chris Iozzi noted that one possibility discussed was the no bin, no barrel program. Burrillville tried it, if you don't have a recycle bin out on recycle day, they won't take your garbage. He goes on to state that he would like to try an education/awareness approach first. If that works, it shows that the town, as a whole, cares. If that doesn't work, then one would have to be more forceful. One issue is that they don't know what things can be recycled. He mentions a refrigerator magnet that has a list on it that he had received years ago that worked well to help with that. Judy Helfgott mentions that they gave those away a year ago at Old Home Days. Lynne Rider points out that some things have changed. She goes on to suggest a "recycle quiz" to be tried out. She also noted that wet trash weighs more than dry, and if people are not covering the trash, it will add a lot of unnecessary weight. There is also the RI Resource Recycling (RIRRC) grant. There are two grants: One is for a part-time recycling coordinator, another is for support money. Judy Helfgott asked if the hired person would do the same thing that the Commission is already doing, because it seems expensive. Lynne Rider points out that it would then mean the Conservation Commission wouldn't have to do it. Judy notes that the first year is covered but not the second and then they would be stuck with the bill. Lynne Rider points out that you don't have to continue the position after the first year. She points out that the decision required now is just whether or not to have Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner, apply for it. George Christie moved that the Commission asks the town (Ann-Marie Ignasher) to apply for the grant with amounts as stated, \$20,000 plus \$5000. Chris Iozzi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Old Business

- Difazio Site Walk. George Christie participated in the site walk and notes that what the Commission was being asked for are objections to the subdivision.
- Environmental Inventory was tabled until a future meeting when Marcia Bowden and Mike Wood are present.
- Priorities on the task list were tabled until a future meeting when Marcia Bowden and Mike Wood are present.

G. New Business

Stonewall Initiative. Notice that the Foster Preservation Society has been contacted by the Scituate Conservation Commission and Gloucester Heritage Society about drafting stone wall legislation and is the Conservation Commission interested. George Christie notes that there has to be care taken with individual property rights.

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H. Future Agenda Items

- Judy Helfgott mentioned a program involving windmills as a future agenda item. They could possibly provide alternative energy for town buildings.
- George Christie says we need to discuss contacting the people who listed at Old Home Days that they wanted to volunteer.

I. Adjournment

Scott Ulricksen moved to adjourn at 8:45; George Christie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Bowden,
Secretary