

**Foster Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Ben Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, Foster, RI**

APPROVED

A. Call to Order

Chair Lucy Minturn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

- **Members Present:** Lucy Minturn, Chair; Sisan Smallman, Secretary; Chris Iozzi; Mike Wood.
- **Additional Participants:** Lynn Ryder (Town Council), Kris Chin (Director, Libraries of Foster).
- **Excused:** Scott Ulricksen, Kathryn Zuromski.

C. Approval of Minutes

- **Meeting Minutes March 19, 2008.** There was brief discussion and clarification of issues addressed at the last meeting. Mike noted the absence of the customary RIRR report.

<p>ACTION: Lucy will ensure the inclusion of the monthly RIRR report in future meeting packets.</p>
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MOTION: Mike made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2008 meeting; motion seconded by Chris. Vote called; all votes in favor; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

D. New Business

- **Kris Chin, Director, Libraries of Foster.** Kris proposed that the Libraries and the Commission consider coordinating and co-sponsoring programs of mutual interest. Examples might include presentations about such subjects as rain gardens, gardening in more ecologically friendly ways, "greening up" home living, promoting sustainable living and green building. Kris has made inquiries of the Apeiron Institute, located in Coventry, which is a good local resource on sustainable and green living. (See web site at www.apeiron.org) They are having a Sustainable Living Festival on June 7 and June 8, 2008.

Additional suggestions from other meeting participants include workshops or presentations on specific topics such as issues related to living within a watershed area, taking care of wells, addressing water runoff and erosion, proper brush disposal, ecological value of different kinds of bugs and other creatures, etc. It was noted that many programs are available through DEM, URI, and other local resources. Members of the Commission expressed interest in joining with the Libraries of Foster in bringing in other resources.

<p>ACTION: Kris will forward information when received from Apeiron Institute.</p>

E. Reports

- **Budget Committee.** Lucy reported the following budget items:
 - Fees totaling \$120 were paid for attendance at the Land & Water Summit (except Sisan's fees for some reason were not included).
 - Ads in the Foster Home Journal (\$120) paid.
 - Sisan noted that Celeste Beauparlante/ Ann-Marie Ignasher requested to be notified of any coming bills and the approximate amount anticipated so they can be paid in timely fashion.
 - Ian was given \$400 toward supplies for the bluebird and bat houses, but virtually all the materials were donated, and there may be some unused funds being returned.

ACTION: Lucy will secure the donor's name and Sisan will draft a letter of appreciation.

- Lucy will pick up bags from Mike for the Earth Day clean-up. Chris has located a small hardware store that is interested in donating rawhide gloves at a considerable discount (approximately \$1 per pair). With clearance to expend approximately \$60 (to be reimbursed) he can have them available tomorrow.

MOTION: Sisan made a motion to approve reimbursement of approximately \$60 (plus tax) for purchase of gloves to be given to residents requesting them for Earth Day clean-up; motion seconded by Mike. Vote called; all votes in favor; no abstentions.

Motion passed unanimously.

- **By-Laws/ Mission Statement Committee.** Sisan reported the following:
 - She is still in the process of reviewing references to the Conservation Commission in state statutes, town ordinances, the Comprehensive Plan, and other available documents. The committee expects to have a draft written out for the next Commission meeting.

ACTION: The next meeting of the By-Laws Committee was scheduled for May 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

- **Environmental Inventory Committee.** Report passed from agenda as Kathryn was not able to be present.
- **Planning Board (Liaison)** – Report passed due to Kathryn's absence.
- **Land Trust (Liaison)** – Lucy reported that there was no meeting of the Land Trust during the past month.
- **DPW (Liaison)** – Scott was not able to be present. However, Lynn Ryder noted that the town is considering a new material and new process (known by the picturesque name of "Rhino Snot") that is an environmentally sound alternative to asphalt paving. The material sprays on a prepared surface and becomes impermeable. As North

Road would be a test site, the product and application may be available at a significant discount.

F. Old Business

- **RI Tree Council Request.**
- **NRICD Request.**

Both matters were continued for action until Lucy can determine the status of the current budget. Mike indicated he believes the Town Council allocated funds specifically for NRICD as part of the Commission budget.

ACTION: Lucy will ascertain whether funds are available and/or have been forwarded to NRICD for FY 07-08.

G. New Business (Continued)

- **Chair's Quarterly Report.** Lucy reported she is finalizing the report.

ACTION: Lucy will forward the Quarterly Report to Town Hall and to Commission members ASAP.

- **Earth Day Activities**
 - **Fliers** proved to be too expensive to copy and mail. Lucy distributed batches to members for distribution by hand to paper boxes, businesses and public locations.
 - **Bluebird and Bat House Construction** has relocated to the Grange, and will be run on Saturday, April 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Staffing: Mike and Lucy.
 - **DPW Clean-up.**
 - Saturday, April 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Staffing: Chris and Sisan.
 - Sunday, April 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Staffing: Mike and Kathryn.
 - 3 big dumpsters are at DPW: 1 for tires (no rims), 1 for recycling, 1 for mixed trash.
 - Waste oil goes by the entrance to the building, tagged with person's name and phone number. Car batteries go on cement ramp.
- **Site Walk with Planning Board.** At the request of the Planning Board, several Commission members joined the Planning Board for a site walk to address potential environmental concerns, particularly as raised by an abutting neighbor. Members found the site and proposed plan to be consistent with town requirements.
- **Technical Review Committee Participation.** With new hires at Town Hall, the Technical Review Committee is expected to get rolling soon. As an adjunct to the Planning Board, and with participation by the Conservation Commission, the TRC conducts site walks and reviews preliminary site development plans with respect to potential environmental impact.

H. Correspondence

- **Review of Current Incoming Correspondence.** No action required.

I. Future Agenda Items

- **Old Home Days**
- **Budget review**
- **RI Tree Council + NRICD**

J. Adjournment

MOTION: Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.; motion seconded by Chris. Vote called; all votes in favor; no abstentions.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sisan Smallman, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:

Foster Conservation Commission

May 19, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Ben Eddy Building

Foster, RI