

**Foster Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 24, 2008  
Town Hall\*, 181 Howard Hill Road, 7:00 p.m.**

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**A. Call to Order/ Roll Call.**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

\*Note that the meeting was moved from the Ben Eddy Building, where the Town Council was in session, to the Town Hall conference room.

**Present (6):** Lucy Minturn, Chair; Scott Ulricksen, Vice Chair; Sisan Smallman, Secretary; Mike Wood; Chris Iozzi; Kathryn Zuromski.

**B. Approval of Minutes.**

Minutes from the meeting of October 20, 2008 were briefly discussed and approved.

**MOTION:** Mike made a motion to approve the minutes; motion seconded by Kathryn. Vote called; all those voting in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

**C. Special Business.**

- **Chair's Address.** Lucy regretfully offered her resignation as Chair and member of the Conservation Commission; she will forward a letter to that effect to the Town Council. She noted that she has enjoyed her work with the Commission, but she must resign due to her impending move to Chicago, where she has taken new employment. This opportunity arose quickly and unexpectedly. She stated she will miss Foster, the Commission, her fellow members, and the friends she has made in town. She urged the other members to continue in their good work toward conserving the rural character of the town. Each of the members expressed regret at her leaving, appreciation for her work, and good wishes for her new life.
- **Selection of New Chair.** Mike noted that only one meeting remains in this calendar year, and election of officers would be required in January in any case. As Vice Chair, Scott could handle the December meeting.

**MOTION:** Mike made a motion to hold the election of a new Chair until the regularly scheduled election in January 2009; motion seconded by Kathryn. Vote called; all those voting in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

**D. Reports.**

- **Budget Committee.** Lucy reported the following:
  - She did not get a clear answer as to why the Old Home Days expenses of \$342 were not charged to the last FY budget, as she had been assured they would be. Mike said he would follow up.
  - A total of \$1964 remains for this FY budget.

- **By-Laws Committee.** Sisan reported the following:
  - There has been no word from Ann Marie Ignasher on review of the proposed By-Laws.
- **Environmental Inventory.** Kathryn reported the following:
  - Immediately prior to meeting, she e-mailed members copies of the field form for site walks, along with the form used by Planning. It may be possible to overlay plat maps, as available; attaching photos might be a good idea. Lucy urged that any member doing a site walk forward such forms to Planning (and Zoning, if appropriate) for consideration in decision-making. All members agreed in principle.
- **Planning Board (Liaison).** Kathryn reported the following:
  - There will be a presentation by Scott Millar on the Scituate Reservoir Greenspace Plan at the next Planning Board meeting, probably on December 3. Kathryn will forward more information when available.
  - The Planning Board is working on developing a flood planning ordinance, which is needed so that residents can apply for flood insurance.
  - An ordinance on outdoor wood furnaces, likely to be modeled on North Smithfield's ordinance, is being developed, with a focus on safety issues and defining what materials may legitimately be burned.
  - The Board is considering plans for retrofitting/ replacing dams that are at risk of failure. Two dams in town are rated high risk. Kathryn has broached the idea of seeking funding so that this work can be coordinated with mitigation of wildlife barriers.
- **Land Trust (Liaison).** Lucy reported the following:
  - There have been no meetings. New signs identifying Land Trust holdings should be available soon.
- **DPW (Liaison).** Scott reported the following:
  - Members were referred to the company web site for further information concerning the so-called "Rhino Snot."

**E. Old Business.**

- **"Trash Rat."**
  - Mike volunteered to follow through with the Town Council concerning possible funding through this FY.
  - The December subject is recycling of holiday wrappings. Carol McCullough indicated she will post a notice next to the cartoon reminding Foster residents that the day after Christmas is a recycling day.
- **Composting Presentation.** Kathryn reported that Sejal is aware that we will contact her to arrange a presentation in the spring.

- **Membership Expiration.** Scott is aware that he needs to write a letter to the Town Council requesting that he be re-appointed to the Commission. His term expires December 31, 2008.

**F. Correspondence.**

- All current incoming correspondence was available for review by members.

**G. New Business.**

- **Ongoing Development of Environmental Inventory** (as discussed).

**H. Future Agenda Items.**

- Lucy suggested that updating of information on the Commission web page will require follow-up.
- She indicated that formal notice was never sent to the Town Council regarding reassigning responsibility for recycling to the DPW. The Commission may want to revisit the issue, or follow through on sending a letter.
- At last contact with Kris Chin, she was investigating a couple of ideas for presentations to be coordinated between the Libraries and the Commission. Lucy will advise Kris to contact us.

**I. Adjournment.**

All members again expressed appreciation to Lucy for her leadership of the Conservation Commission, and wished her well in her new endeavors.

**MOTION:** Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Chris. Vote called; all those voting in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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Sisan Smallman, Secretary

***NEXT MEETING:***

***Foster Conservation Commission  
Monday, December 15, 2008  
7:00 p.m.***

***Ben Eddy Building  
Foster, RI***