

**Foster Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2008
Ben Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, 7:00 p.m.**

A. Call to Order/ Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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 September 15, 2008 were briefly discussed and approved. Mike expressed appreciation for his email comments having been addressed at the meeting and in the minutes.

MOTION: Sisan made a motion to approve the minutes; motion seconded by Mike. Vote called; all votes in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Kathryn will follow up contact with Sejal.

C. Reports

- **Budget Committee.** Lucy reported the following:
 - RIRRC has certain funds set aside for Conservation Commissions. She will request from John Lewis that publication of "Trash Rat" be funded, perhaps for rest of fiscal year.

ACTION: Lucy will inquire at Town Hall tomorrow why the expenses we had thought were being covered by FY 2008 monies (rain garden ad, Old Home Days reimbursement, Trash Rat) were actually paid out of FY 2009 budget, as discussed at last meeting.

- **By-Laws Committee.** Sisan reported the following:
 - Ann Marie Ignasher indicated to Sisan that she has not yet had an opportunity to review the By-Laws or to forward the draft to Attorney Joseph Bevilacqua.

ACTION: Lucy stated she would make inquiries about the best course of action.

- **Environmental Inventory.** Kathryn reported the following:
 - She has compiled a list of significant information for members to use as a reference on site walks, including environmental features to look for; cues and maps to identify wetlands; cultural/ historical sites; proximity of well to roads and property lines; special features presenting potential hazards (e.g., old dump site); wildlife habitats; etc.

- Mike referenced George Christie having done considerable groundwork in developing an environmental features list. Kathryn has incorporated much of the information into her compilation, and will review it again.

ACTION: Kathryn will email the list to all members for review and suggestions.

- **Planning Board (Liaison).** Kathryn reported the following:
 - Proposed changes to the zoning regulations and the Comprehensive Plan are still under discussion by the Zoning Board, and are not yet ready for review.
 - Saturday she will be attending the Zoning Board workshop.
- **Land Trust (Liaison).** Lucy reported the following:
 - There have been no meetings and nothing new to report.
- **DPW (Liaison).** Scott reported the following:
 - There is nothing new to report.

D. Old Business

- "Trash Rat" this month is on the proper disposal of mattresses. Mike suggested that addressing all the recyclables associated with the holidays (boxes, wrappings, foil, etc.) might be a good subject in the upcoming months.
- Composting: Kathryn has spoken with Sejal, who would be delighted to do a presentation, needing only a projector screen and a date. The group suggested that a composting workshop would be more appropriate for spring, probably March or April. Mike proposed that we consider subsidizing the \$50 cost of compost bins to be sold at the event. We should plan promotional ads as the time approaches.
- With regard to Commission membership, Scott is planning to write to the Town Council to request reappointment.
- Discussion of the long-horned Asian beetle invasion suggested that an article would be better published in March or April, as they are entering hibernation for the winter.
- Lucy has resubmitted information to John Lewis for inclusion on the web site. Members suggested other items that would be useful to post, including "Trash Rat," planned workshops, beetle information, the 6 identified Walks in Foster, and others.

E. Current Incoming Correspondence.

- All current incoming correspondence was available for review by members.
- Mike noted that the RIRRC reports show that while recycling is increasing, general rubbish disposal is also growing.

F. New Business.

- Environmental Inventory (previously discussed).

G. Future Agenda Items.

- Lucy is talking with Kris Chin about possible presentations, including issues with wood furnaces.
- Kathryn reported that part of her job involves working on a stream inventory, specifically compiling a data base of stream/ road crossings and the barriers they pose to movement of fish and wildlife. The intention (though funding has been adversely impacted by changes to the Farm Bill) is to target the most severe obstacles for mitigation, coordinating with existing town road projects as feasible. They expect to get to the Moosup River in the spring, and will seek local volunteers to assist with the effort.

H. Adjournment.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sisan Smallman, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:

***Foster Conservation Commission
Monday, November 17, 2008
7:00 p.m.***

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