

**Foster Conservation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 27, 2009
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 7:00 p.m.

Present (6): Mike Wood, Chair; Scott Ulricksen, Vice Chair; Sisan Smallman, Secretary; Chris Iozzi; Kathryn Zuromski; Louis Vinagro, III.

Vacant (1)

Welcome to New Member. Louis Vinagro was introduced to all present. As an active Board member of the NRICD and the RI Raised Livestock Association, he was welcomed as a valuable addition to the FCC.

B. Approval of Minutes.

The record of the unofficial meeting of May 18, 2009 was reviewed. No quorum was reached and therefore formal minutes and approval were not necessary.

Minutes from the meeting of April 20, 2009 were briefly discussed and approved.

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

C. Reports.

- **Budget.** Since the last meeting, Celeste Beuparlant reported that she had verified the \$1500 line item approved by the Town Council for educational efforts by the FCC. These funds are being kept in a separate account for tracking.

Due to family illness, there is no Trash Rat being run this month. However, the FHJ will run the article on the Asian Long-Horned Beetle.

- **By-Laws.** Members had the opportunity to complete a final review of the proposed By-Laws. No new changes were requested, and there was consensus that they should be forwarded to the Town Council for approval after the necessary 30-day posting period for changes in regulations.

MOTION: Sisan made a motion to approve the revised By-Laws and to forward them for adoption to the Town Council; motion seconded by Kathryn. Vote called; all in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Environmental Inventory.** Inactive at this time. Kathryn has a disc copy of the Greenspace presentation that was done for the Planning Board. She will try to e-mail it to all members, and will get a disc to Mike.

- **Planning Board (Liaison).** Kathryn reported that the current issues before the Planning Board remain the Route 6 rezoning (there was another meeting recently), affordable housing and conservation development. Kathryn was made aware that she is an official voting member of the Planning Board, per Town ordinance.
- **Land Trust (Liaison).** Chris reported that the Land Trust has a new member.
- **DPW (Liaison).** Inactive at this time.

D. Old Business.

- **Earth Day [Review].** Activities went well, but next year, we should get out a mailer to Town residents (1 folded sheet) as a reminder of the date and items to be recycled.
- **Presentations on Composting and Landscape Design [Review].** Turnout was fair, and both presentations were excellent. Kathryn forwarded one presenter's invoice and is waiting for the second.
- **Information on Asian Long-Horned Beetle.** As noted, an item is appearing in the June FHJ with information and picture. Louis noted that the NRICD has an effective display, and he will inquire whether it would be available for us to use for Foster OHD.

E. Correspondence.

All current incoming correspondence was available for review by members. Mike asked that members take a few moments each week to review and comment as appropriate.

Mike passed out an e-mail notice concerning a recycling event in Garden City and the possibility of hosting a similar event in Foster (would require a substantial turnout). Mike will try to get more information about the type of event.

F. New Business

- **Encouraging Preservation of Stone Walls.** Members reviewed the updated draft.

MOTION: Sisan made a motion to accept the changes to the proposal to preserve and protect stone walls, and to put the matter on the agenda for final approval next month; upon approval, it will be forwarded to the Town Council for possible adoption as a Town Ordinance. Motion seconded by Chris. Vote called; all in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Reducing Total Trash Disposal [Possible Mailer].** Concerning reducing overall trash and increasing recycling, there was discussion of developing a list of e-mail contacts as a low-cost means of distributing information, as well as expanded use of the web-site. Residents may not be cognizant of the cap and the cost of any overage. Alternatives include increased recycling and composting, and avoiding disposing yard waste as trash. Additionally, some towns have moved to making trash pick-up

contingent on recycling and/or "pay-per-bag". Louis asked about the feasibility of a drop center for bulk items.

ACTION: Mike will investigate costs of a mailer to Town residents and/or a "stuffie" in the FHJ.

- **Other Issues.**

Scott noted that he still needs to forward Tim Johnson's address for a letter of appreciation.

Scott informed members that Charles Borders' house and property have gained considerable recognition through the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Society, and were voted onto the list of National Historic Sites. He suggested scheduling a joint tour and hike. Information about the property is available at Bordersfarm.org.

G. Future Agenda Items.

Old Home Days Planning.

Planning, staffing, set-up and breakdown.
Ad in FHJ.

H. Adjournment.

MOTION: Sisan made a motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Kathryn. Vote called; all in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sisan Smallman, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:

Foster Conservation Commission

June 15, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Ben Eddy Building

Foster, RI