

FOSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 22, 2010

Old Town House (Relocated from Ben Eddy Building), 181 Howard Hill Road, 7:00 p.m.

(Approved)

A. Call to Order/ Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Present (5): Scott Ulricksen, Chair; Chris Iozzi, Vice Chair; Sisan Smallman, Secretary; Lou Vinagro; Patrick Eaton, New Member.

Excused: Kathryn Zuromski.

Vacant (1)

New Member Patrick Eaton was welcomed to the Conservation Commission. He has a degree in Recreation Management, and has a lot of interest in environmental and conservation issues.

Scott took note of the sad news of Mike Wood's passing. Calling hours at the Perry-McStay Funeral Home are Wednesday, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., and the funeral is Thursday morning at St. Paul's in Foster. Members expressed sorrow at the loss. Scott will get family contact information, if possible, and we will plan to send a letter of condolence along with pictures taken when Mike was presented with the appreciation plaque.

B. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from February 4, 2010 were reviewed.

MOTION: Chris made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 4, 2010; motion seconded by Lou. Vote called; all in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

C. Reports

- **Environmental Inventory/ Planning Board.** No new information. Sisan indicated that Kat had reported no scheduled dates for the Planning Board's site visit to the property of David Costa at 197 Gene Allen Road.
- **Land Trust.** No new report.

- **Recycling/ DPW.** Lou is in continual contact with DPW and will report on any issues of concern. He indicated that Rambone's survey of recycling by Town residents shows that 25% of households are not recycling – a high rate of non-compliance. There was discussion of a need for additional advertising and other means of raising public awareness.
- **Trash Rat.** Chris noted that this month's Trash Rat gives a nod to Mike Wood.

D. Old Business

- **Foster Stone Wall Preservation and Protection Ordinance.** Ann-Marie Ignasher is continuing to review the proposal. Scott said he would call her to check on the status.
- **Walks in Foster.** Chris will get updated information from the Land Trust on the established walks in Town. There was discussion of coordinating community walks for recreation and surveying significant features. Patrick suggested that GPS programs exist that can instantly note coordinates of any items of interest, such as rare plants or invasive specimens.
- **Land and Water Summit.** Sisan reported that Kat had hoped to register for the conference. No other members are able to attend.

E. New Business

- **Bluebird and Bat House Workshop.** The workshop is scheduled for April 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (plus ½ hour at each end for set-up and clean-up). On Saturday morning, Sisan will ensure that Woody Lowden is open (or contact Scott to get the key from the Police Station). Scott is handling getting wood, preparing kits, and taking reservations. Patrick offered to staff the workshop as well. Ads have been carried in the FHJ.
- **Earth Day Planning.** Lou has arranged with Rambone to provide additional roll-aways for April 24 and 25 for trash collection. Members committed to a schedule of coverage for the hours of operation, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on those days. Sisan has submitted an ad to the FHJ, and Lou wrote up a brief article.
- **Earth Day Grant Applications.** Lou said that he will take care of requesting waiver of tipping fees for the Earth Day collections from the RIRRC.
- **No Bin/ No Trash Proposals.** Lou indicated that this is probably not a good year to try to institute new restrictions on

trash disposal, but this issue should remain among our long-term priorities for consideration.

- **Reduction of Meeting Paper and Folders.** Sisan noted that in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of paperwork for FCC meetings, Celeste will email items as feasible and Sisan will make sharable copies of minutes and the like available for meetings.
- **Creative Recruiting of Members.** Again, Patrick was heartily welcomed. We still have 1 vacancy to be filled.

F. Correspondence

- New correspondence was available for review. No action required.

G. Future Agenda Items

- **Foster Old Home Days Planning.**

H. Adjournment

MOTION: Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Sisan. Vote called; all in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sisan Smallman, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:

***Foster Conservation Commission
Monday, April 19, 2010***

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