



Foster Conservation Commission

Town of Foster
Benjamin Eddy Building
6 South Killingly Road
Foster, RI 02825

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, January 16, 2012

Location: Benjamin Eddy Building
6 South Killingly Road
Foster, RI 02825

A. Call to Order/ Roll Call

The Chair stoically called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present (4): Chris Iozzi, Chair/Secretary; Lou Vinagro, Vice Chair; Patrick Eaton; Brendan Mara

Excused (0)

Absent (0)

Vacant (3)

Visiting (0)

B. Approval of Minutes

- **Minutes:** Minutes from the December 2011 meeting were presented for review and approval.
- **MOTION:** Lou made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Patrick. Vote called; all in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.
Motion passed – unanimous vote.

C. Reports

- **Planning Board Liaison:** Brendan reported that the Planning Board had provided positive feedback on the various site visit reports issued by the Conservation Commission; no additional work was requested at this time.
- **Land Trust Liaison:**
 - Brendan reported that he had received generally positive feedback from representatives of the Land Trust on community hikes and/or guided excursions. A general coordination meeting with representatives from the Land Trust should be scheduled for a future meeting.
 - Chris reported that he had reviewed several Land Trust trails and found them to be in excellent condition.
- **Recycling/ DPW Liaison:**
 - Lou reported that the Town of Scituate was willing to split the cost of the 'Environmental Day' paper shredding event and advertising.
 - Lou reported that the 'Environmental Day' event will include an opportunity to exchange broken/damaged blue/green bins for new bins free of charge or to purchase new blue/green bins for a nominal fee.
 - Lou suggested that the proposed Rain Barrel instruction be excluded from this event and suggested that it instead be included as part of Old Home Days 2012.



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D. Old Business

- **Municipal Recycling Report:** The latest reports indicate that recycling rates are still well below the target rates; the town will likely exceed the tipping limits for the year.
 - All commissioners agreed that outreach efforts must be maintained and/or increased in order to increase municipal recycling rates. The articles in the Foster Home Journal and future events will all continue to emphasize the importance of recycling.
- **Budget Review:** The Foster Conservation Commission reviewed the budget update provided by the Town of Foster – no change from last month and no new expenses to report.
- **January Column/Article in Foster Home Journal:** The Commissioners reviewed the December article published in the Foster Home Journal and all agreed that it was yet another example of fine journalism; all agreed that this effort was worthwhile and should continue if possible.

E. New Business

- **Review of Responsibility of Foster Conservation Commission – Foster Town Charter:** Nothing to report; discussion tabled for further consideration at future meetings on an ‘as needed’ basis.
- **Joint Projects with Land Trust:** Reviewed previously in meeting; nothing further to report.
- **2012 Old Home Days Planning:** A brief discussion of 2012 Old Home Days plans took place.
 - Lou suggested that the rain barrel and compost bin workshop will take place at OHD 2012; all agreed that this would be an appropriate addition.
 - New literature and giveaways are required for OHD2012; a portion of the budget will be dedicated to this expense. An outreach effort will be made to find artists/designers for any new literature.
 - Further planning for this event will take place at a future meeting.
- **2012 Bluebird Feeder / Bat House / Toad House Event Planning**
 - Patrick suggested that woodpecker feeders be built at this year’s event in lieu of bat houses; a template of such a feeder was presented. All agreed that this was a great suggestion; no formal motion required as no additional expense anticipated.
 - Patrick suggested a toad house as a possible additional feature and presented some templates; all agreed that these may be more suitable for a handout than a formal guided construction project; literature and examples will be available at the event.
 - Additional displays at the event may include rain barrels and compost bins; additional planning will take place at the next meeting.
 - Patrick passionately proposed that the event take place on 3/24/2012 from 9am-1200pm at the Woody Lowden Center; Chris agreed to reserve the space.
- **2012 Earth Day Trash Collection Planning:** Reviewed previously in meeting; nothing further to report.
- **2012 Rain barrel & Compost Bin Sales Planning:** All agreed that the proposal to set up a rain barrel and compost bin display at Old Home Days and possibly the Backyard Habitat construction event was worth pursuing.



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- **February Column/Article in Foster Home Journal**
 - Brendan volunteered to continue submitting articles to the Foster Home Journal as time permits; all were supportive of the idea.
 - February article will include a reminder about the Environmental Day and Backyard Habitat Workshop events.

F. Correspondence

- **New Correspondence:**
 - A letter is in the mailbox; it will be reviewed at the February meeting.
 - Brendan volunteered to register Lou and himself for the RI Land and Water Conservation Summit to be held at URI in March with the registration fee for both commissioners will be paid for out of the budget (80\$ expense).

G. Future Agenda Items

- **Newsletter for Foster Conservation Commission:** The commission reiterated a desire to have a newsletter available for OHD 2012; this issue will be discussed further at the February meeting.
- **New Commissioner Training & Recruitment:** Discussion tabled for further consideration at the February meeting.
- **Comprehensive List of Volunteer Service Projects – Conservation Commission:** Discussion tabled for further consideration at the February meeting.
- **Comprehensive Plan Review:** Discussion tabled for further consideration at the February meeting.

H. Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Patrick made a decidedly vocal motion to adjourn the meeting; motion quickly seconded by Lou. Vote called; all in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed - unanimous vote.**
The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Next Meeting - Foster Conservation Commission

Date: Monday, February 20, 2012

Location: Benjamin Eddy Building
6 South Killingly Road
Foster, RI 02825

Respectfully Submitted,

Brendan S. Mara
Secretary