



Foster Conservation Commission

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 27, 2012

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

A. Call to Order/ Roll Call

- The Chair enthusiastically called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 January 2012 meeting were presented for review and approval.
- **MOTION:** Brendan made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted; the motion was seconded by Lou. Vote called; all in favor with none opposed and no abstentions.
Motion passed – unanimous vote.

C. Reports

- **Planning Board Liaison:** Brendan reported that there was no new information from the Foster Planning Board to report.
- **Land Trust Liaison:** Chris reported on information received from the Foster Land Trust.
 - A stargazing event held in August on Land Trust property; more information to follow at a later date.
- **Recycling/ DPW Liaison:** Lou reported on information received from the DPW and on current recycling trends.
 - The Foster DPW has confirmed that new green and blue bins will be available for exchange/purchase at the upcoming 'Environmental Day' event.
 - 'Environmental Day' has been confirmed and will be held on 4/14/2012 from 9AM – 1PM at the Foster DPW site.
 - The Town of Scituate has confirmed that they will split the cost of the 'Environmental Day' paper shredding event and advertising; proof of residency in either town will be required to participate.
 - The Town of Scituate will submit the 'Environmental Day' advertisements to the Foster Home Journal for publication in the April Edition.
 - Lou confirmed that we appear 'ready to rock' on 'Environmental Day'.



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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 and further education and outreach are required to increase recycling rates.
- **Budget Review:** The Foster Conservation Commission reviewed the budget update provided by the Town of Foster.
 - All agreed to request level funding from the Foster Town Council to present at the Foster Town Meeting to fund programming/training/outreach for fiscal year 2012/2013 .
- **February Column/Article in Foster Home Journal:** The Foster Conservation Commission reviewed the January article published in the Foster Home Journal; 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:** Brendan volunteered to invite a representative from the Foster Land Trust to attend a future meeting in order to begin formal discussion of joint projects.
- **2012 Old Home Days Planning:** A brief discussion of 2012 Old Home Days plans took place.
 - Lou recommended that the Foster Conservation Commission purchase an updated, portable display board; he volunteered to further research this expense and present information at a future meeting.
 - Brendan suggested that we begin an outreach effort to identify artists who may be willing to assist with creating new literature and handouts for OHD 2012; information will be included in a future Foster Home Journal article.
 - Lou suggested preparing handouts/literature on single stream recycling; all agreed that this was worth pursuing.
- **2012 Bluebird Feeder / Bat House / Toad House Event Planning:** A brief discussion of the 2012 Backyard Habitat Workshop took place.
 - The Woody Lowden Center has been reserved to host the Backyard Habitat Workshop on 3/24/2012 from 9AM – 12PM.
 - A budget of 200\$ was confirmed to procure materials for the workshop.
 - Patrick confirmed that he was A-OK collecting the materials for the event and did not require assistance ahead of the workshop.
 - Chris and Brendan confirmed that they would be able to assist for all or part of the workshop.
- **2012 Earth Day Trash Collection Planning:** Reviewed previously in meeting; nothing further to report.
 - Chris and Patrick confirmed that they were available to assist for all or part of the ‘Environmental Day’ event; Brendan confirmed he would likely be absent.



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- **2012 Rain barrel & Compost Bin Sales Planning:** A brief discussion of when to incorporate Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Sales/Instruction took place
 - An instructional display and giveaway for rain barrels will be included in planning for Old Home Days 2012.
 - A 'Win the Bin' giveaway for compost bins will be included in planning for Old Home Days 2012.
 - Both giveaways may be positive inspiration for posters/handouts; further planning & discussion is required.
- **New Exhibit, Poster, and Literature Planning**
 - Lou once again reiterated his excitement in obtaining new presentation boards for the Foster Conservation Commission.
- **April 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.
 - April article will include a reminder about the Environmental Day event, encourage artists to volunteer for literature design, and discuss stone wall preservation.

F. Correspondence

- **New Correspondence:** A brief discussion of recent correspondence took place.
 - Information on goose control measures was received; no action taken.
 - Correspondence on a proposed development in Killingly, CT was received; all agreed to forward this along to the Foster Planning Board for review and consideration.
 - A catalogue on promotional 'freebie' items was received and will be considered further for potential purchased for Old Home Days 2012.

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 March meeting.
- **New Commissioner Training & Recruitment:** Discussion tabled for further consideration at the March meeting.
- **Comprehensive List of Volunteer Service Projects – Conservation Commission:** Discussion tabled for further consideration at the March meeting.
- **Comprehensive Plan Review:** Discussion tabled for further consideration at the March meeting.

H. Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Brendan quickly made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion rapidly seconded by Patrick. Vote called; all in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed - unanimous vote.**
The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



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Next Meeting - Foster Conservation Commission

Date: Monday, March 26, 2012

Location: Foster Town House
6 South Killingly Road
Foster, RI 02825

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brendan S. Mara".

Brendan S. Mara
Secretary