



Foster Conservation Commission

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 21, 2011

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

A. Call to Order/ Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

Excused (0)

Absent (0)

Vacant (3)

Visiting (0)

B. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from February meeting were submitted for review and approval.

MOTION: Lou made a motion to approve the meeting minutes; motion seconded by Patrick.
Vote called; all in favor; none opposed; no abstentions.

Motion passed - unanimous vote.

C. Reports

- Planning Board Liaison:** Brendan briefly attended the previous Planning Board meeting and discussed a request from the Planning Board that the Conservation Commission review and comment upon (4) sections of the Town of Foster Comprehensive Plan:

- Natural Resources
- Open Space and Recreation
- Land Use
- Goals and Policies

All Conservation Commission members agreed that they would review these sections and prepare for a discussion at the April meeting.

- Land Trust Liaison:** Chris was unable to attend the last meeting; nothing to report.
- Recycling/ DPW Liaison:**
 - Lou reported that the Earth Day Recycling Events will be held on 4/23/2011 as previously discussed from 8am through 1pm. Lou reported that he would request the DPW clean up the Pods area prior to the event. Lou reported that the Conservation Commission will be running ads in the April Foster Home Journal. Commission members should report to the DPW prior to the 8am start time to assist with the effort; final details to be worked out at the April meeting.



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- Lou reported that he submitted a grant application to RIDEM, valued at \$750, for funding Earth Day activities. If the application is successful, then a second day will be added to the Earth Day event on 4/24/2011 open only to Foster residents and open to disposing of tires in addition to other household waste. No results were available at the time of this meeting but are expected in time for the April meeting.

D. Old Business

- **Earth Day Trash/Tire Collection:** Issue discussed during Recycling/DPW Liaison report; no additional information to report.
- **Hazardous Waste Collection:** Issue discussed during Recycling/DPW Liaison report; no additional information to report. Computers and hazardous household chemicals will be among the items accepted at the Earth Day event.
- **Bluebird/Bat House Attendance:** Patrick reported that he had received (14) RSVPs thus far to reserve either Bluebird or Bat houses; reservations will continue to be accepted up until the scheduled event on April 2 from 10am through 2pm. Commission members should report to the Woody Lowden building prior to the 10am start time to assist with the effort.
- **Earth Day Trash Collection:** Issue discussed during Recycling/DPW Liaison report; no additional information to report.

E. New Business

- **Old Home Days Planning:** Preliminary discussions were held on ways to reinvigorate the Conservation Commission booth at OHD. Potential ideas included a composting/recycling display and the presentation of worms or t-shirts in lieu of the books raffled off during previous years. Additional research will be carried out to determine costs and better develop ideas to discuss at the April meeting. Chris will confirm the available budget for OHD to discuss at the April meeting.
- **Budget:** Chris reported that he had submitted a letter to the Town Council requesting level funding for the Conservation Commission as part of the new fiscal year budget; no response has been provided to date.
- **Other Concerns:** Brendan will pursue establishing a Facebook page for the Conservation Commission in order to interact with the general public and keep them current on upcoming activities, events, and noteworthy news related to the Conservation Commission.

F. Correspondence

- **New Correspondence:** No new correspondence was available at this time; nothing to report.

G. Future Agenda Items

- **Rain Barrel & Compost Bin Sales:** Members discussed possibly publicizing a rain barrel and/or compost bin sale for Foster residents, through the RIRRC.



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- **Newsletter for OHD:** Members discussed possibly publishing a brief newsletter which highlights Conservation Commission activities and noteworthy news for distribution at OHD in 2011. This item will be discussed in greater detail at the April meeting, however, photos will be taken at the Bluebird and Bat house workshop for this purpose.
- **Mason Bee Display:** Patrick expressed interest in preparing a mason bee display for the Bluebird and Bat house workshop and for OHD; all members felt this was worth pursuing further.

H. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next Meeting - Foster Conservation Commission

Date: Monday, April 18, 2011
Location: Benjamin Eddy Building
6 South Killingly Road
Foster, RI 02825

Respectfully Submitted,

Brendan S. Mara
Secretary