



**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES  
TOWN OF FOSTER**

**Benjamin Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, Foster, RI  
Wednesday: November 05, 2008 AT 7:00 p.m.**

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**A. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Julia Parmentier, Chair.

**B. Roll Call**

Present from the Planning Board were Julia Parmentier, Chair; Pat Moreau, Vice Chair; Helen Hardy, Secretary; members John Neale, Tom Mercier, Mike Carpenter, and Marcia Bowden. Also present were Ann-Marie Ignasher, Town Planner; Kathryn Zuromski, Conservation Commission; Louis and Sarah Pezza.

**C. Approval of Minutes**

Planning Board Meeting(s): October 15, 2008

Tom moved, Pat seconded to approve the minutes of October 15, 2008. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Ordinance Workshop: October 25, 2008

Pat moved, Marcia seconded to approve the minutes of October 25, 2008. Motion carried 4-0, Tom Mercier, Mike Carpenter and John Neale abstained.

**D. Correspondence and Review**

Received correspondence from DEM; application for Suburban Land Development, Victory Highway, application denied.

Email from Jennifer West, Scituate Reservoir/Greenspace Project requesting to make a presentation in December which will depend on when we meet in December.

**E. Board Members' Reports**

None

**F. Planner's Report**

None

**G. Administrative Subdivisions**

None

**H. Minor Subdivisions**

None

**I. Major Subdivisions**

None

**J. Commercial Site Reviews**

None

**K. Old Business**

1 - National Flood Insurance Program – Draft Ordinance (sample)

Foster is the only town in RI without BFE (Base Flood Elevations) and provisions for existing structures, utilities and improvements to existing structures.

Ann-Marie reviewed the new proposed flood zone maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with the Building / Zoning Official, Director of Public Works, and various Town Council members. The Town received correspondence from FEMA to remind us we must enact a floodplain ordinance before March 2, 2009.

Ann-Marie spoke with a Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) representative via email on November 3, 2008 and Ann-Marie requested a floodplain ordinance from an inland community versus a coastal community. Tom asked if West Greenwich and Glocester had ordinance in place that we could review. Currently, the Building / Zoning Official recommends people stay away from building in any designated floodplains.

Due to the type of floodplains we have in town, mostly related to our inland waterways, (streams, brooks, rivers and reservoirs), the RIEMA official state that we could just enact an ordinance that denies any development within the flood zones. Ann-Marie agrees with this type of ordinance, and suggests that we follow this suggestion. Ann-Marie will try to have a rough draft of an ordinance for the November 19, 2008 meeting.

2 - Outdoor Wood Furnaces – Draft Ordinance

The town currently has approximately 12-16 pending applications for outdoor wood fired furnaces, Ann-Marie could not give an exact number. There is a proposed emission standard for 2010 by the EPA - "Best available technology," with voluntary compliance.

Pat asks about the regulation and who will enforce these boilers. Indoor woodstoves are EPA regulated.

Currently, the building office is requiring that permits for mechanical, electrical, plumbing and building are pulled before construction / installation are begun.

## **Planning Board Meeting Minutes November 5, 2008**

Wood furnace owners Louis and Sarah Pezza, of Burgess Road, neighbors of Tom Mercier, voiced their concerns regarding new regulations. Members discussed using the North Smithfield ordinance as a basis of our draft ordinance, and they requested that Ann-Marie attempt to work on that before our next meeting of November 19, 2008.

Julia Parmentier and Marcia Bowden voiced some concerns regarding the pollution aspects of the furnaces.

### **3 - Dam Plans – schedule workshops for plan preparation**

There are at least two (2) dams within the Foster community that are considered high / significant risk dams.

We are required by state statute to put in place a plan to show how we will deal with a (possible) dam failure for any one of those dams.

Ann-Marie has received copies of the technical / engineering research work done by Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) and we must now complete the plans for those dams.

Two other dam plans have already been completed by the Providence Water Supply Board as it is the owner of those two particular dams.

It was discussed to go take site walks at these various dams so the board is aware of the various issues involved with each dam. Julia Parmentier, Marcia Bowden, and Tom Mercier were willing to do so. Ann-Marie was asked to schedule a Saturday morning for the tour of the dams – all board members will be notified.

Ann-Marie explained to the board that when she attended a Hazard Mitigation grant workshop run by RIEMA, they stated quite clearly that FEMA does not offer grant money for private dam restoration. Kathryn Zuromski said we should look into funding from organizations that provide funding for fish ladders. Ann-Marie said that would be a very slim possibility but worth looking into.

### **4 – Hazard Mitigation Plan – possible grant opportunity**

Risk assessment matrix: Local roads subject to storm flooding.

Roof on school: As it is the only Town shelter

All these things are possibilities for Homeland Security Grants

Mike Carpenter questioned why the risk of forest fires was not listed.

Tom and Mike offered assistance.

## **L. New Business**

12/3 Scott Millar presentation; ordinances

12/17 Election of officers

## **M. Future Agenda Items**

Flood Plain insurance

Wood Furnaces

Hazard Mitigation

## **N. Adjournment**

Tom Mercier moved to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Hardy  
Secretary