

**Foster Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2008  
Ben Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, Foster, RI**

---

**APPROVED**

**A. Call to Order**

Chair Lucy Minturn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

- **Members Present:** Lucy Minturn, Chair; Sisan Smallman, Secretary; Chris Iozzi; Scott Ulricksen; Mike Wood; Kathryn Zuromski.

**C. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting on April 21, 2008 were discussed, and one edit was adopted.

**MOTION:** Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; motion seconded by Lucy. Vote called; all those voting in favor; none opposed; two abstentions (Scott and Kathryn). Motion passed.

**D. Reports**

- **Budget Committee.** Lucy reported the following:
  - A copy of the budget sent by the Treasurer's office shows expenditures for approved items as expected. The total remaining with the recent expenditures is approximately \$1000.
  - Anticipated expenses between now and the end of the fiscal year June 30 include the pending RI Tree Council request, Old Home Days items, and co-sponsorship of one or more presentations with the Libraries, as discussed at the last meeting. The possibility of natural resource maps was discussed, and it was determined they may be available through member resources.
  - An invoice for \$300 was received from Rambone for the 3 Earth Day containers.

**MOTION:** Sisan made a motion to approve payment to Rambone; motion seconded by Mike. Vote called; all those voting in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

- **By-Laws Committee.** Sisan distributed an updated proposed draft of revised By-Laws prior to the meeting. (There was no meeting of the committee, as had been planned.) Discussion included questions about the chain of reporting: whether the Commission is under the jurisdiction of the Planning Board and whether expenditures need to be submitted to the Planning Board for approval (as indicated in the Town Council resolution that established the Commission); or whether the Commission reports directly to the Town Council (as indicated in the Town Code). Lucy also suggested that the new By-Laws should include explicit guidelines for how to approve expenditures (i.e., by vote of the full Commission, or if required by the regulations, through the Planning Board). In addition, there was discussion of how the By-Laws should address an educational function for the Commission.

**ACTION:** Lucy will consult with Ann-Marie Ignasher as to the questions regarding jurisdiction and budgeting.

***Post Meeting:** Lucy forwarded an e-mail following her conversation with Ann-Marie, confirming that the Conservation Commission reports directly to the Town Council, and is budgeted independently of the Planning Board.*

**MOTION:** Scott made a motion for Sisan to incorporate the changes discussed into an updated draft for further review by the Commission at the next meeting; motion seconded by Kathryn. Vote called; all those voting in favor; none opposed; one abstention (Mike). Motion passed.

**ACTION:** Sisan will prepare another draft of proposed By-Laws in advance of the next meeting.

- **Environmental Inventory.** Kathryn demonstrated computerized RIGIS maps with multiple overlays showing waterways, wetlands, land use, soil types, etc. Data on the disks can be downloaded to PC's. There was some discussion of the potential for adding in localized resources and items of interest.

Kathryn indicated she is considering devising a new inventory list for Old Home Days. Chris and Scott made suggestions, including samples of types of animal and plant life we'd be most interested in, so as not to be inundated by reports of common features. Kathryn inquired about a format for an inventory report. Suggestions include maps with annotations; specifying resources and priorities for conservation; and identification of desirable "greener" processes, such as habitat protection, water conservation, diversity of habitats, and protecting native plants and animals.

- **Planning Board (Liaison).** Kathryn reported that the Planning Board has been concentrating on preparation for the Route 6 informational meeting scheduled for May 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Members were urged to attend.
- **Land Trust (Liaison).** Lucy reported that the Trust is proceeding with acquiring the piece of property discussed previously. Additionally, haying contracts have been awarded to Gordon Rodgers for 2 parcels.
- **DPW (Liaison).** Scott reported he has not had contact.

#### E. Old Business

- **RI Tree Council Request.**

**MOTION:** Mike made a motion to approve a donation of \$100 for the RI Tree Council; motion seconded by Scott. Vote called; all those voting in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

- **NRICD Request.** Mike had a financial report confirming that \$800 was already approved for this fiscal year, and was paid on 1/31/08. No further action needed.
- **Chair's Quarterly Report.** Lucy reported that she did send the Quarterly Report to the Town Council.

**ACTION:** Lucy will e-mail a copy to each Commission member.

- **Earth Day Review.** Group discussion included suggestions for next year, such as:
  - Planning in advance to hand-deliver fliers in residential paper boxes in town, public gathering places, and businesses;
  - Putting notices on the Town website;
  - Adding educational components to interest people; etc.

#### **E. New Business**

- **Sustainable Living Presentation with Libraries.**
  - All members are agreed, pending information from Kris Chin on costs.
  - Apeiron is having a Sustainable Living Festival on June 6 + 7, 2008 at their Hammet Avenue, Coventry location.
- **Computer Recycling.** Members should inform friends and neighbors that there is a computer equipment recycling day in Foster on June 19, 2008 at Paine School.
- **Old Home Days Activities.** As always, OHD is scheduled for the last weekend of July. Possible Commission activities were discussed, including:
  - Making leftover bird and bat houses available;
  - Offering a raffle (Chris reports that in the past, this has been a good means of gaining interest and identifying potential participants);
  - Posting RIGIS maps, environmental inventory information and inventory reporting forms.
  - Signs outside the Old Townhouse might help to draw attention.

**F. Correspondence.** Members reviewed current incoming correspondence. Lucy asked that members become familiar with the language of environmental wetland permitting letters. No other action required.

#### **G. Future Agenda Items**

- Old Home Days and associated activities.
- Co-sponsorship of presentation(s) with the Libraries.
- End of fiscal year expenditures.

#### **H. Member Issues**

- Mike asked about the status of receiving the RIRR report. Lucy indicated she had put in a request to Celeste Beauparlante, who said the Town has not been receiving them either. Celeste was going to follow up on this.
- Scott corrected his cell phone # for the contact list. It should be 489-6404.

**I. Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Sisan. Vote called; all those voting in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Sisan Smallman, Secretary

***NEXT MEETING:***

***Foster Conservation Commission  
Monday, June 17, 2008  
7:00 p.m.***

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