

**Foster Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 20, 2009
Ben Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, 7:00 p.m.**

Approved

A. Call to Order/ Roll Call.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present (4): Mike Wood, Chair; Scott Ulricksen, Vice Chair; Sisan Smallman, Secretary; Chris Iozzi; Kathryn Zuromski.

Vacant (2)

B. Approval of Minutes.

Minutes from the meeting of March 16, 2009 were briefly discussed and approved, with minor changes.

MOTION: Scott made a motion to approve the minutes; motion seconded by Chris. Vote called; all those voting in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

<p>ACTION: Scott will forward contact information to Sisan for Tim Johnson, who donated the wood used for the bluebird and bat houses last month. Sisan will draft a letter of appreciation.</p>

C. Reports.

- **Budget.** Mike reported that the new Treasurer will need to look into the \$1500 line item approved by the Town Council and referenced in the minutes of March 16, 2009. She ran an update of current expenditures and available funds, with no evidence of the additional amount.
- **By-Laws.** Members were provided at the last meeting with a draft revision of the proposed By-Laws, as reformatted by Ann-Marie Ignasher. The proposed change in how a quorum is determined was eliminated, based on Ann-Marie's information that Robert's Rules of Order requires that a quorum be based on the number of assigned membership seats rather than by the number of those seats that are actually filled. In other respects, the substance of the By-Laws is virtually the same as the draft proposed by the Commission last year. Sisan noted two minor editing changes.

MOTION: Sisan made a motion to move the proposed By-Laws to the next level of action by the Town Council; motion seconded by Kathryn. Vote called; all in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

<p>ACTION: Sisan will contact Ann-Marie Ignasher and notify her of the minor editing changes, and will request that she forward the By-Laws to Legal Counsel and/or the Town Council as appropriate.</p>

- **Environmental Inventory.** Inactive at this time.
- **Planning Board (Liaison).** Kathryn reported on current issues before the Planning Board, including a request to create 100 RV and tent sites just off Route 6 (there was a site walk last week). Kat indicated that some sites may require DEM approval due to wetlands considerations. The matter is still in the early stages of review by Planning.

At the March 4, 2009 meeting, Planning addressed the ongoing issues of affordable housing, the Route 6 rezoning proposal, and revision of conservation development ordinances.

- **Land Trust (Liaison).** Chris reported that the Land Trust has a new member.
- **DPW (Liaison).** Inactive at this time.

D. **Old Business.**

- **Presentations on Composting + Landscape Design.** Both presentations are set for next week, 4/21/09 at 6:30 pm in Ben. They were advertised in the FHJ, and Kat has made several groups aware of the event. Kat and Sisan indicated they will bring light refreshments.
- **Information on Asian Long-Horned Beetle.** Kat sent information for an article to the FHJ, but no article appeared this month. There is still time, as the adult beetles generally emerge in June.

E. **Correspondence**

All current incoming correspondence was available for review by members.

F. **New Business**

- **Earth Day. April 22, 2009.** The FCC-sponsored clean-up is planned for the upcoming weekend, as advertised in the FHJ. FCC members signed up for various shifts on Saturday, 4/25/09 (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) and/or Sunday, 4/26/09 (10:00 am to 2:00 pm).
- **Old Home Days.** At this point, Mike requested that we plan to be available as needed to help move and set up display materials in the Old Town House, and think about new displays. Suggestions included pictures and write-ups of the 7 hikes on preserved land in Foster. Kathryn has samples of small cards with pictures and information on the Asian Long-Horned Beetle, which would be terrific handouts. Sisan will pick up books for the raffle again.
- **Encouraging Preservation of Stone Walls.** Sisan reported having researched stone wall ordinances. It appears that Harwinton, CT was the first town to institute an ordinance trying to protect stone walls, with support and research by Prof. Robert Thorson, activist and author. One issue that seemed particularly significant in the ordinances other towns have passed is that requirements regarding stone walls have been limited to those

abutting town-owned roads. Our members have also identified the importance of balancing private property rights with public interests in preservation, and protection of stone walls with respect to public works projects.

Sisan drafted a proposed ordinance addressing these issues and distributed it to members for review. Further discussion will continue at the next meeting.

- **Reducing Total Trash Disposal.**
General discussion of the total trash cap and efforts to reduce overall disposal.
- **Other Issues.**
The Trash Rat this month is spoofing the new dog tags.

Kathryn brought a copy of the Scituate Conservation Commission annual report for review. It suggests ideas for additional activities by the FCC.

G. Future Agenda Items.

- By-Laws.
- Stone walls.
- Old Home Days.
- Thank you letter.

H. Adjournment.

MOTION: Kat made a motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Scott. Vote called; all votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sisan Smallman, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:

**Foster Conservation Commission
Monday, May 18, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

**Ben Eddy Building
Foster, RI**