

Foster Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 26, 2009
Ben Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, 7:00 p.m.

A. Call to Order/ Roll Call

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Present (5): Scott Ulricksen, Vice Chair; Sisan Smallman, Secretary; Mike Wood; Chris Iozzi; Kathryn Zuromski.

Vacant (2)

B. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of December 15, 2008 were briefly discussed and approved. Mike updated several issues, reported under respective agenda headings.

MOTION: Mike made a motion to approve the minutes; motion seconded by Sisan. Vote called; all those voting in favor; none opposed; one abstention (Kathryn). **Motion passed.**

C. Election of Officers

- Scott invited nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the Conservation Commission.

MOTION: Chris nominated Mike Wood as Chair; motion seconded by Sisan. Vote called; all votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Note: Newly elected Chair Mike Wood conducted the rest of the meeting.

MOTION: Mike nominated Scott Ulricksen as Vice Chair; motion seconded by Sisan. Vote called; all votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

MOTION: Kathryn nominated Sisan Smallman as Secretary; motion seconded by Mike. Vote called; all votes in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- Mike led discussion of selection of liaisons to Town Committees.

Planning: Kathryn will continue to attend meetings as feasible, with the understanding that her schedule may prevent full attendance. She will forward agendas and meeting schedules to other members, with particular attention to significant meetings that she is unable to attend.

Land Trust: Mike will check on status of the Land Trust and the need for a current liaison. Chris agreed tentatively to attend as needed.

DPW: Scott will continue to serve as the informal liaison to DPW as needed.

D. Reports

- **Budget Committee.** Current expenditures and budget were reviewed. Suggestions were considered for existing funds, including the composting presentation through URI Extension, as previously discussed (possible date in April); a presentation on eco-friendly landscape design, also through URI Extension; bird and bat house construction (discussed below); and making compost bins available at reduced cost.

ACTION: Kathryn will explore costs for the speakers, potential dates, and feasibility of combining the 2 presentations.

ACTION: Mike will confirm information on cost of compost bins.

Note: Members approved funding for advertising in the FHJ for these events.

- **By-Laws Committee.** Mike reported that Ann-Marie Ignasher apologized for not having reviewed the By-Laws yet, and promised to get to them soon.
- **Environmental Inventory/ Planning Board.** Kathryn reported that she attended a presentation given by Scott Millar on the Scituate Reservoir Watershed Greenspace project, and provided copies of the July 2008 report. The report details the same features we have identified as significant to our own environmental inventory. In addition to the summary report for the entire watershed region, in-depth maps for each town have been made available to Town officials, including the Planning Board. Kathryn has the Powerpoint presentation on disc.

Kathryn provided copies of a proposed site walk evaluation form for use by FCC members, as discussed at previous meetings. Members accepted the form by consensus.

Kathryn provided a flier from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCC), which has workshops coming up on government funding for private landowners, composting animal waste, woodland enhancement, etc.

- **Land Trust (Liaison).** No report.
- **DPW (Liaison).** No report.

E. Old Business

- **"Trash Rat" Funding.** Mike drafted a letter to be sent to the Town Council to request funding from RIRRC monies to assist in public education efforts regarding recycling.

MOTION: Sisan made a motion to approve the letter as proposed; motion seconded by Kathryn. Vote called; all votes in favor; none opposed. **Motion passed unanimously.**

All members signed the letter. Recycling of electronic equipment was discussed as an idea for a future Trash Rat.

ACTION: Mike will deliver the signed letter to Town Hall.

- **Composting Presentation.** See above.
- **Letter of Appreciation.** By consensus, all members approved the letter of appreciation drafted by Sisan for former Chair Lucy Minturn. Mike provided FCC stationery.

ACTION: Sisan will reprint the letter on FCC stationery and mail to Lucy.

F. Current Incoming Correspondence

- All current incoming correspondence was available for review by members.

Renewed discussion occurred concerning running an article in the FHJ to alert residents to the Asian Longhorned Beetle. If not carried as an informational article, members approved funding for an ad for the March issue.

ACTION: Kathryn will attempt to get a clear digital image of the beetle and a brief blurb about it, to be forwarded to Sisan

ACTION: Sisan will contact Carol McCullough of the FHJ concerning an article.

G. New Business

- **Discussion of Responsibility for Recycling.** Mike reported that after discussion with Ann-Marie Ignasher, it seems that DPW is responsible for recycling but that FCC is better situated to handle the public education aspects.
- **Planning for the Bird and Bat House Workshop.** Based on early spring return of bluebirds, the workshop should take place by early March.

ACTION: Mike will secure a date for use of Woody Lowden for bird and bat house construction, and contact the FHJ to update last year's ad.

- **Exploration of Ways to Encourage Preservation of Stone Walls.** Mike distributed copies of a Smithfield ordinance regarding stone walls.

ACTION: All members were asked to review the law and be prepared at the next meeting to discuss potential proposals for Foster.

- **Land and Water Summit.** Preliminary notice of the March 21 conference has been sent out. Members may attend at FCC expense if available.
- **Other Issues.** Sisan forwarded to the attention of the Chair a notice concerning the due date of the last quarterly report.

Scott noted that he has been officially reappointed to the Commission.

H. Future Agenda Items

- URI Extension Presentations on Composting and Eco-Friendly Landscape Design.
- Compost Bins.
- Asian Long-Horned Beetle Article.
- Bird and Bat House Construction.
- Stone Wall Preservation.
- Land and Water Summit.

I. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sisan Smallman, Secretary

NEXT MEETING:

**Foster Conservation Commission
Monday, February 17, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

**Ben Eddy Building
Foster, RI**