

## Foster Conservation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 16, 2009

Ben Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road, 6:30 p.m.

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#### A. Call to Order/ Roll Call

In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Scott Ulricksen called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**Present (5):** Scott Ulricksen, Vice Chair; Sisan Smallman, Secretary; Kathryn Zuromski; Chris Iozzi; Lou Vinagro.

**Excused (1):** Mike Wood.

**Vacant (1)**

#### B. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September 21, 2009 were reviewed. Subsequent scheduled meetings (on October 7, 2009 and October 19, 2009) were not convened due to lack of quorums.

**MOTION:** Chris made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 21, 2009; motion seconded by Lou. Vote called; all in favor; none opposed; no abstentions. **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

#### C. Reports

- **Environmental Inventory and Planning Board.** Kat provided brief updates on activities of the Planning Board.
- **Land Trust Liaison.** Chris reported that a meeting is being held this evening.
- **DPW Liaison.** No new report.

#### D. Old Business

- **Foster Stone Wall Preservation and Protection Ordinance.** Sisan reported that she and Lou participated in a meeting of the Planning Board on October 7, 2009 for review of the FCC's proposal. Planning Board members were very receptive to the goal of protecting stone walls, though there was some difference of opinion concerning whether the proposal should attempt to address all historic stone walls or only those abutting public roads (as proposed). There was considerable discussion of whether or not there is a need for an ordinance specifically aimed at stone wall

preservation. Members seemed to believe that the new conservation zoning modifications that are expected to be adopted soon would bring stone walls involved in new development under the permitting and review process of the Planning Board. However, for removal of stone walls on already developed property, the Town may need to create a new regulation and permitting process, likely under the authority of the Building and Zoning Inspector. Ann-Marie Ignasher agreed to discuss the matters with Town Attorney John Bevilacqua.

A resident in attendance at the FCC meeting contributed concerns about the proposal's potential impact on private property rights. She indicated support for maintaining stone walls on public roads, but felt strongly that she and other taxpaying property owners should be able to remove stones or alter walls elsewhere on their land. Sisan noted that the Conservation Commission proposal includes explicit recognition of property rights, and distinguishes requirements (relative to historic stone walls abutting public roads) from recommendations (relative to non-abutting stone walls). The participant also suggested that stone walls should be defined to differentiate piles of rubble from structured walls.

- **Asian Long-Horned Beetle Meeting Preparation.** It was noted that this brief meeting would be followed immediately by public information presentations on the AHB and other invasive species.

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

- **No Bin/ No Trash Proposals.** Providence is the latest RI municipality to join Cranston, Lincoln and the other towns that have passed ordinances to link pick-up of trash to a requirement that residents also use recycling bins. Lou would like to propose a similar plan for Foster. Towns that have had no bin/ no trash for a while are finding that compliance rates are starting to increase. Problems with the roll-out in Providence highlight the need to thoroughly publicize in advance of the change. Lou also reported that Foster will soon have recycling containers at the DPW for electronics (TV's, computers, etc.)
- **Trash Rat.** Chris indicated that the December Trash Rat will be a re-run of an old favorite.

#### **F. Correspondence**

- No new correspondence was available for review.

**G. Future Agenda Items**

- Promoting the official walks in Foster.
- Finding assistance in producing the Trash Rat – either a student artist or purchase of an illustrator computer program.

**H. Adjournment**

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

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.**

**The public information meeting then began with Kathryn's introduction of Kate Sayles and Kate Venturini, who made presentations concerning invasive insects and plants.**

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*Respectfully Submitted,*

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*Sisan Smallman, Secretary*

**NEXT MEETING:**

***Foster Conservation Commission  
December 21, 2009  
7:00 p.m.***

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