

**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF FOSTER**  
**Benjamin Eddy Building, 6 South Killingly Road**  
**Foster RI 02825**  
**Wednesday: April 4, 2018**

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**A. Call to Order**

Mr. Carey called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Joe Carey, Chair; Richard Sparks, Vice Chair; Mike Carpenter; Ron Cervasio; Anthony Renzi; Jeff Sheldon; and Helen Hardy, Secretary.

Staff Present: Jennifer Siciliano, Planner, Joanna Achille, Solicitor

Town Officials Present Denise L. DiFranco, Mike Dillon, Gordon Rogers, Chris Stone from the Town Council; and Dennis Therrien from the Land Trust.

Public Present Sandy Hopkins

**C. Approval of Minutes**

1) February 3, 2018

Rick Sparks moved, Jeff Sheldon seconded, to approve the minutes of February 3, 2018 site walk.

Mr. Cervasio moved, Jeff Sheldon seconded, to amend that the minutes be changed to note that Mr. Cervasio had an individual site walk at an earlier time with the planner. Ms. Hardy noted that Lisa and Timothy Harkness were there.

Amendment passed 7 – 0.

Mr. Carey noted that Joe Casali the engineer and John Dibari the owner were there.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

2) February 7, 2018

Ron Cervasio moved, Jeff Sheldon seconded, to approve the minutes of February 7, 2018.

Motion passed 7 – 0.

3) March 7, 2018

Ron Cervasio moved, Anthony Renzi seconded, to approve the minutes of March 7, 2018.

Motion carried 6 – 1, Mr. Cervasio voted no.

**D. Correspondence**

Ron Cervasio submitted articles for handout regarding alternative energy.

**E. Board Members Reports**

1) Land Trust

Mike Carpenter reported that there would be revised parking on Spencer West, that the contract was renewed with Keith Moffat. Officers were elected. There is continuing pursuit of connecting the Spencer and Hayfield properties with a bridge. Dennis Therrien has been keeping trails clear and marking them. They have been working with Town Hall to make properties more available. An open space program granted funds for six high school students for summer work. Minutes are posted.

2. Conservation Commission

Rick Sparks stated that he attended the February 26 meeting. Planned activities include election of officers, site walks, Earth Day / Eco Depot collection planned for April 21, and a booth at Foster Old Home Days. He also attended the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Members are learning about the duties and responsibilities of the commission

**F. Comprehensive Plan Update**

Jennifer Siciliano, Planner, has reviewed it and it is at the library for edits. Mr. Cervasio asked about the maps. Mr. Sparks said his daughter has almost completed them.

Discussion: Anthony Renzi, Joe Carey, Jennifer Siciliano.

**G. State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) request**

1) Plainfield Pike Accident Report

Mr. Cervasio brought an accident report from Plainfield Pike from Poles 70-88. He stated that he requested Representative Mike Chippendale and Chief Ziehl attend the meeting but they were unable to do so and that he realized it had nothing to do with STIP. Mr. Cervasio requested that the Planning Board bring it to the Town Council and that they

bring it to the State DOT. Mr. Sparks suggested that there are other locations in town that are a concern.

Discussion: Rick Sparks, Ron Cervasio, Joe Carey, Helen Hardy, Anthony Renzi, Gordon Rogers.

Mr. Cervasio moved, Jeff Sheldon seconded, that the chair write a letter to the Town Council informing them of the discussion and recommending that they move ahead with some fix for the safety of Route 102. Ms. Achille recommended that they make a suggestion of what they are looking for, what the problem is and what potential solutions you are looking for. Suggestions included signage, roundabouts, flashers and speed limits.

Motion carried 6 – 0 – 1. Rick Sparks abstained.

## **H. Procedural Workshop**

Joanna Achille handed out the RI General Laws on Planning Boards and Commissions, parts of the Town Charter, the Open Meetings law, the Democratic Rules of Order, and the Planning Board rules that currently have been voted on.

A five-minute recess was called at 8:00 p.m. to give members time to read the State Regulations and the Town Charter. Meeting reconvened at 8:05.

Ms. Achille explained what rules govern the meetings, noting that the Open Meetings Law supersedes the others.

Discussion regarding procedures and duties of the planning board: Ron Cervasio, Anthony Renzi, Joe Carey, Joanna Achille, Jeff Sheldon, Rick Sparks, and Helen Hardy.

## **I. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Economic development: impact of zoning changes / potential rezoning of Rt. 6 / review of town zoning
- b. Blight ordinance / enforcement
- c. Meeting procedural modifications
- d. Screening Requirements for Commercial Development

Ron Cervasio moved to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Motion carried 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Hardy,  
Secretary