



**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
TOWN OF FOSTER
Benjamin Eddy Building
6 South Killingly Road, Foster, RI
Wednesday: March 1, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

A. Call to Order

Mr. Carey called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Joseph Carey (Chair); Richard Sparks (Vice-Chair); Michael Carpenter; Thomas Mercier; Sergio Spaziano (arrived at 7:07 p.m.); and Ronald Cervasio.

Board Members Excused: Helen Hardy (Secretary).

Staff and Present: Juliana King (Planner) and Joanna Achille, Esq. (Solicitor).

Public Present: David Westcott (Mason & Associates) and Chris Stone (Town Council).

C. Approval of Minutes

Discussion/Action

- 1) June 15, 2016
- 2) January 18, 2017
- 3) February 15, 2017

Motion by Mr. Mercier to table the minutes of 6/15/2016 and 1/18/2017. Second by Mr. Carpenter.
Approved 5 – 0.

Motion by Mr. Mercier to approve the minutes of February 15, 2017. Second by Mr. Carpenter.
Approved 4 – 0 – 1 (Mr. Sparks abstaining due to recusal on 2/15/17).

D. Correspondence

Discussion/Action

There was none.

E. Board Members' Reports

Discussion/Action

- 1) Land Trust

No report was available at this time.

- 2) Conservation Commission

No report was available at this time.

F. Planner's Report

Discussion / Action

January 2017

Mr. Carey placed the Report on file.

G. Comprehensive Plan Update

Discussion/Action

- 1) Continued Review of First Draft with Consultant

David Westcott, consultant from Mason & Associates, and the Board started where they had left off- the Population chapter. Mr. Westcott will update figures in this chapter as well as in Housing. Discussion also included school enrollment projections and associated costs, the language regarding unemployment and income (touched on in Housing too), and the connection between an increase in an aging population and demand for tax relief.

Discussion on the Community Services & Facilities chapter revolved around better and more efficient use of Town Hall space, an update on EMA staff, Police vehicle numbers and facility needs, the trash/recycling rate and how to increase it, energy efficiency in public buildings, and wood/solar/wind as alternative energy options.

In the Natural Hazards chapter, the Board talked about forest fires and that the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is being updated with a FEMA grant.

Points made regarding the Transportation chapter included improvements needed at the Route 6/Cucumber Hill Road intersection, transit possibilities with RIPTA, and road/bridge improvements/funding/project completions.

Discussion on the Growing Economy chapter centered on realistic expectations of retail versus manufacturing/light industry/warehousing, accessory businesses on farms and forests, and marijuana as agriculture.

In the Housing chapter, the Board focused on buildout and how it relates to the 10% Low and Moderate Income housing mandate from the state, land constraints, and past strategies and how to adapt them for the future.

Finally, the Land Use chapter prompted mention of conserved land versus available property.

Ms. King noted that comments from the majority of the Board are still requested, and outlined the next steps.

P. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Hardy, Secretary