



**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF FOSTER**  
**Benjamin Eddy Building**  
**6 South Killingly Road, Foster, RI**  
**Wednesday: April 19, 2017**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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**A. Call to Order**

Mr. Carey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Joseph Carey (Chair); Richard Sparks (Vice Chair); Helen Hardy (Secretary); Michael Carpenter; and Ron Cervasio.

Board Members Excused: Sergio Spaziano and Tom Mercier.

Staff Present: Joanna Achille (Town Solicitor) and Carol Sholly (Clerk).

Staff Excused: Juliana King (Planner)

Public and Applicants Present: Denise DiFranco and Gordon Rogers (Town Council); Helena, Ron & Ashley McCullough; Sandra & Jeff Sheldon; and Paul Allen.

**C. Approval of Minutes**

April 5, 2017.

*Discussion / Action*

Motion by Mr. Carpenter to approve the minutes of April 5, 2017. Second by Mr. Sparks.

Mr. Cervasio wanted the minutes regarding the GrowSmart presentation to be corrected to include his request that the Board not deal with it until they receive the maps for the Comprehensive Plan. He also requested that a statement objecting to the Chair appointing Mr. Mercier to the Interview Committee for the new planner under New Business be added, as he had volunteered. Mr. Cervasio opined that the appointment was done illegally and no objection was raised. Ms. Hardy asked to verify the legality with Ms. Achille, and Ms. Achille responded that it was appropriate for the Chair to appoint to the Committee. No objection was added at the time during the meeting so it should not be included in the minutes.

Mr. Cervasio questioned the Solicitor how it was appropriate for the Chair to have a previous conversation with a member and talk about an appointment; specifically, that Mr. Carey had said he had spoken to Mr. Mercier. Ms. Achille said she had spoken to Solicitor Mark Tourgee and that it was appropriate. Mr. Cervasio intended to speak with Mr. Tourgee and that if there is a volunteer, it should be up to the Board. Mr. Carey noted that he followed what the Board had done in the past. Mr. Carey added that such discussion didn't have to have to occur in an Open Meeting and that it was not on the agenda.

Ms. Hardy requested a minor change to page 2.

Motion approved 4 – 1 – 0 (Mr. Cervasio voted no).

**D. Correspondence**

*Discussion / Action*

Ms. Sholly informed the Board that Town Clerk Susan Dillon had resumed the practice of handing out Welcome Packets to new residents, and passed out a new flyer of Scenic Walks.

**E. Board Members' Reports**

*Discussion / Action*

1) Land Trust

Mr. Carpenter spoke about the new Dunbar property and the Spencer West property, and how they expand the use of public property and wildlife habitat. The trails are marked and open so people can enjoy the Town's beautiful natural amenities.

2) Conservation Commission

There was no report at this time.

**F. Administrative Subdivision**

*Discussion / Action*

1) RIFCO, Plat 5 Lots 46A / 46B / 46D

The Board noted the details.

**G. Zoning**

***Discussion / Action***

1) Wind Turbine Ordinance

Board members discussed the pros and cons of wind turbines, and the draft ordinance Ms. King had provided for review. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Sheldon added to the overall discussion.

Motion by Mr. Carpenter to table further discussion until after the 4/22 site visit. Second by Mr. Cervasio. Approved 5 – 0.

2) Marijuana Ordinance

Mr. Carey noted that there was not a draft ordinance to review but samples of ordinances from other towns were included in the packets. Discussion involving potential issues commenced, with Mr. Rogers contributing.

Motion by Mr. Cervasio to use the State definitions and decide on each category and zone at the next meeting. Second by Mr. Sparks. Approved 5 – 0.

**H. Comprehensive Plan Update**

***Discussion / Action***

Mr. Carey stated that he spoken with the consultant and that the second draft is three days out, but maps will not be included.

**I. Future Agenda Items**

***Discussion***

- 1) Continued Discussion re: Accessory Businesses on Farms/Forests
- 2) Regionalize Schools for Recommendation to Town Council
- 3) 4% to Capital Improvements Program
- 4) Concerned Citizens on All Agendas
- 5) Communications Towers approval procedure
- 6) RIDEM Farmland Access Program

Mr. Cervasio wanted the 4% added to the next agenda, but Mr. Carey said it was inappropriate to utilize meeting time to discuss issues the Board could take no action on. Ms. Achille said that the topic did not need to be on the agenda.

**J. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Helen Hardy, Secretary