



**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
TOWN OF FOSTER
Benjamin Eddy Building
6 South Killingly Road, Foster, RI
Wednesday: March 2, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

A. Call to Order

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

B. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Joseph Carey (Chair); Julia Parmentier (Vice-Chair); Helen Hardy (Secretary); Thomas Mercier; Michael Carpenter; Sergio Spaziano (arrived at 7:11 p.m.); and Richard Sparks.

Staff Present: Juliana King (Planner).

Public and Applicants Present: None.

C. Approval of Minutes

Discussion/Action

1) December 16, 2015

Motion by Mr. Mercier to approve the minutes of December 16, 2015. Second by Mr. Carpenter. Ms. Parmentier and Mr. Carey had a minor suggestion for page 3. Approved 7 – 0 as amended.

2) January 6, 2016

Motion by Mr. Mercier to approve the minutes of January 6, 2016. Second by Mr. Carpenter. Approved 7 – 0.

3) January 20, 2016

Motion by Mr. Mercier to approve the minutes of January 20, 2016. Second by Mr. Carpenter. Approved 7 – 0.

4) February 17, 2016

Motion by Mr. Mercier to approve the minutes of February 17, 2016. Second by Mr. Carpenter. Approved 7 – 0.

D. Correspondence

Discussion/Action

There was none.

E. Board Members' Reports

Discussion/Action

1) Land Trust

Mr. Carpenter reported that, with respect to the RIFCO/Merriman proposed minor subdivision, RIFCO is fine with being taxed and the Trust is happy with the draft management plan. PHS students will be conducting baseline documentation for the Dunbar property management plan, and the Hayfield management plan just needs DEM approval. The Trust will be seeking DPW permission to use the Unimog to access some of these properties. Mr. Carpenter noted that a new round for DEM open space/recreation grants has opened up.

2) Conservation Commission

Mr. Spaziano reported that the Commission will be implementing an insect habitat/fairy house concept throughout the conserved parcels and in backyards. Commissioners will be attending the annual Land & Water Summit on 3/19 at URI.

F. Planner's Report

Discussion/Action

January 2016

Mr. Carey placed it on file after a few questions revolving around Rambone, Solarize Foster, and the Grinnell property/DEM.

G. Zoning

Discussion / Action

1) GBM- Development Standards

Ms. King reminded the Board on past discussion and the resulting changes reflected in this draft, as well as highlighting the additional language found in the Site Plan Review section of the Zoning Ordinance that supports the expansion of existing use section even more. Discussion to finesse the language even further ensued.

Motion by Mr. Mercier to accept the amendments as presented and discussed tonight, and send the final product back to the Council. Second by Ms. Parmentier. Approved 7 – 0.

M. New Business

Discussion/Action

1) Checklists

Motion by Mr. Mercier to table to 3/16. Second by Mr. Spaziano. Approved 7 – 0.

2) Letter to Town Council re: Capital Transfer in the Charter

Mr. Carey gave an overview of the need and timelines as the Council prepares issues for the November ballot. General dialogue followed, and all agreed on 4%.

Ms. Hardy emphasized that one of the Planning Board's responsibilities is to look ahead and try to ensure that the Town is running smoothly, and our infrastructure is simply deteriorating. Mr. Carpenter added that it is important to stress that the capital budget is meant for only fixed assets that depreciate.

Mr. Carey expressed that, due to the timing of the Council agendas, a letter from the Board should be drafted ASAP.

Motion by Mr. Mercier to ask Ms. Hardy and Mr. Sparks to write a letter to the Council detailing the Board's wishes with respect to a recommended capital budget transfer increase, and authorize Mr. Carey to sign it on behalf of the Board and send it to the Council for their 3/10 agenda. Second by Mr. Carpenter.

Motion by Mr. Mercier to amend his original motion to remove the Council meeting date. Second by Mr. Sparks. Approved 7 – 0.

Main motion approved 7 – 0.

P. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Hardy, Secretary