

The October 12, 2023, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President, in Foster, RI at 6:00 p.m. at the Benjamin Eddy Building.

The following members were present:	Also present:
Denise L. DiFranco, President	Kelli Russ, Finance Director
Chris Stone	Town Planner, Grant McGregor
David Paolino	DPW Director, Gordon Rogers
Heidi Rogers	Julia Chretien, Assistant Solicitor
Cheryl Hawes (sworn in after item V.)	

- | | |
|--|--|
| I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | Denise L. DiFranco called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. |
| II. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ PUBLIC COMMENT | Denise L. DiFranco announced the Chief Lindell’s mother passed away. Also Bob Farnum, Cheryl [Hawes] brother-in-law passed away. Ms. DiFranco called for a moment of silence.
Ms. DiFranco asked for those interested in participating in Trunk or Treat to contact Recreation. |
| III. CONSENT AGENDA | <div><div><div>1. Meeting Minutes</div><div>Approval of September 14, 2023 and September 28, 2023</div></div><div><div>2. Approval of General Warrants</div><div>FY2024 #6 \$130,805.73</div></div><div><div>3. Abatements</div></div><div><div>4. Approval of July and August 2023 Monthly Reports:</div><div>B&Z, DPW, Police, PB&ZBR, RIRRC, Finance</div></div></div>
<div>Chris Stone moved, Heidi Rogers seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Motion passed 4 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.</div> |
| IV. PUBLIC HEARING
2 nd Hearing | <div>Heidi Rogers read the ad for the public hearing (see Exhibit A).
Denise L. DiFranco opened the public hearing.
Grant McGregor reviewed the proposed amendments.</div>
<div>Sec. 38-358 – Development Standards for Highway Commercial 2 (HC2) (Addition)
Proposed addition of development standards to accompany the addition of the proposed HC2 zoning district. Development standards are proposed to assist in maintaining a balance between commercial, residential, and agricultural uses. Sec. 38-358 is currently reserved
Heidi Rogers questioned not removing trees. Mr. McGregor said that would have to be approved by the planning board. Ms. Rogers asked, what if they just owned the property and cut all the trees? Mr. Paolino asked if they wouldn’t they have to go through DEM.
Denise L. DiFranco said this should be public comment.</div> |

Mr. McGregor explained the environmental impact wording of the section.

Paul Allen, Moosup Valley Road, asked about impervious cover. He said he thought it was inevitable that the water would be polluted.

Lynne Rider, Burgess Road, said she thought there was already an ordinance that said you could only cover a certain percent of a piece of property. Has that changed? Mr. McGregor said it had not.

Gordon Rogers, Cucumber Hill Road, asked about existing grades. Mr. McGregor said any grade changes shall be consistent with the general appearance of neighboring development. Mr. Rogers said the engineers set the grades.

Mr. McGregor said it would be “as practicable” to preserve the landscape.

Sec. 38-191 (Table of Uses) (Amendment)

Proposed removal of NC, MI, and R-SC zoning districts. Proposed addition of HC2 zoning district. Uses amended based on least restrictive permitted uses in districts to be removed. Notes found in Sec. 38-191 to be removed and replaced for organizational purposes.

Lynne Rider, Burgess Road, asked if they would be changing the table to “Ns” and “Ys.” Mr. McGregor said that would come later.

Julia Chretien said that in preparation for the motion she anticipates them making, they are looking to amend the key associated with the Table of Uses so that permitted is no longer “X”, it is “Y”; prohibited is no longer “O”, it is “N” and keeping Special Use Permits the same. Mr. McGregor said yes.

Sec. 38- 192 (Dimensional regulations) (Amendment)

Dimensional regulations proposed to be amended to create more consistent setback regulations. Setback regulations designed based on the Rural and Suburban Fire Safety Manual. Removal of districts as proposed by Sec. 38-191 and 38-132 is proposed in Sec. 38-192. Overlay districts proposed to be added for municipal uses and uses within historic districts. All side and rear setbacks will be changed to 50 ft. and the front yard depths will be changed to 35 ft. Other permitted uses include AR, and additionally there are utility regulations. 50 ft. from all lot lines for utilities and 35 ft. from the front, and all State regulations.

Gordon Rogers, Cucumber Hill Road, asked about well and septic variances. He stated that if he had a piece of property and his septic system failed, he could put it 10 feet from the property line which, in essence, would stop whoever from putting their well within a hundred feet of that. The 100 ft. setback is mandatory between any well and any septic. If the septic is in the front, the well is in the back. When you say utilities are you saying you cannot put a well? He would ask for extreme leeway on the well itself, you are creating a 100-foot setback from the leach field and the well and the well is considered a utility and has another 100 ft. setback. So you are

eliminating where the well can go by setting it at 100 feet. You are trying to put everything in on a 300-foot wide lot, a hundred feet from the well and septic so he is asking for some leeway.

Mr. McGregor said that one can ask for a variance. Lynne Rider, Burgess Road, said she imagined this was based on the fact that no matter what state law has done, hydrology has not changed, and our land has not changed. If you ever had a well fail, it is not a happy place [to be] and if people are putting their wells close together then you are just asking for it. Erring on the side of caution would be wise. She would hope there would be some kind of soil engineering study done.

Anna Rao, Central Pike, said she will sue the town if her well is poisoned because of the zoning changes.

Sec. 38-288 (Sign Regulations) (Amendment)

Sign regulations proposed to be amended to account for removal and addition of the zoning districts explained in the paragraphs above. Some sign regulations amended in effort to work toward a future dark sky ordinance proposal, to clarify prohibited signs, or to alleviate inconsistencies existing within the section.

Lynne Rider, Burgess Road, asked if they were allowing an internally lit sign in an AR zone. Mr. McGregor said no. Ms. Rider said that, hopefully, the farming community would not have an internally lit sign.

Matt Gillooly, Winsor Road, said he doesn't agree with freestanding signs. Mr. McGregor said they removed the freestanding signs because you needed a minimum of 8 ft. in an AR district, so that's why it was proposed to be removed. Heidi Rogers said he was talking about temporary signs. Julia Chretien said if you can pull it up, it's temporary.

Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing. She reminded the council that they will be able to vote on these tonight.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the recommendation of the planning board regarding the proposed amendment to **Section 38-358 – Development Standards for Highway Commercial 2 (HC2) (Addition)**

Discussion: Heidi Rogers said she was against not allowing property owners to cut down trees. Chris Stone asked how the planning board would know how many trees were cut down? Mr. McGregor said they would have to prove the natural state; it would not have to be that exact. They would have to plant some trees. David Paolino said he guessed the way they would determine it would be is the setbacks were 50 feet, and you have clear-cut the whole lot, you would have to replace the trees to bring you into conformance. Chris Stone mentioned the ball field as an example. They should have automatically included those trees. Mr. McGregor said the goal is to allow the natural environment to be preserved as much as practicable. Julia Chretien said there was

already a requirement for buffering. David Paolino said the spirit and intent of this language is to preserve the buffers, etc. from stripping land completely. Denise L. DiFranco said we have to have faith that the people we appoint to the planning board are not going to be unrealistic. Mr. McGregor said the planning board is allowed to issue any condition.

Motion passed 3 - 1.

Heidi Rogers, no; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the recommendation of the planning board regarding the proposed amendment to **Section 38-191 (Table of Uses) (Amendment)**, and to amend the key from "X" to "Y" for permitted uses and non-permitted uses from "O" to "N" and Special Use Permits to remain the same.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to approve the planning board's recommendation for the proposed amendment to **Section 38-192 (Dimensional regulations) (Amendment)**

Discussion: David Paolino said he thought the move from the state from the 100 ft. setbacks to 50 is moving in the right direction, bringing less restriction.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Heidi Rogers moved, David Paolino seconded, to approve the planning boards suggestion to amend the proposed amendment to **Section 38-288 (Sign Regulations) (Amendment)**, and amend the key for permitted used from "X" to "Y" and prohibited uses from "O" to "N."

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco said she thought that Matt's concern about the farms signs were addressed. Temporary means removable signs.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Police Station Update

Denise L. DiFranco said she had a meeting a day or so ago and there was a lot of discussion about the time frame and when things were going to happen. Joseph Walsh contacted the architect who said they did not receive the survey until the beginning of October. The new dates are that the documents will be uploaded on October 26, there will be a pre-bid meeting on November 7 at South Foster; last day for questions will be November 13, November 17 is the addendum issue if needed, November 27 bids will be returned and opened by Grant and Kelli. There will be a meeting of the Foster Police Committee that night. And we will have a meeting on the 28th with a

council meeting on the 30th to approve the bid. It was asked Tuesday night by Mr. Renzi as to why the property has not been signed over. We do not have the land in our name yet but that will be done as soon as the engineer signs off. When they submit their bids, they must also submit when they can start and when they can finish.

Bob Moreau asked why we waited for this summer, why has this not already been done. Cheryl Hawes said if it was done previously and we needed more land, we wouldn't have it. David Paolino said and we would have had to move the building. The bid to go out to the architect didn't go out right away. Once the architect was chosen when the land was to get divvied up, there were no flags and the ground looked wet.

Gordon Rogers, Cucumber Hill Road, said standing water has been shown on Google Earth for 50-75 years. The first thing an engineer does is check Google Earth and decide where to put the site. David Paolino said he wasn't hired officially until August. Ms. Rogers said that maybe it was our fault for not determining it was a viable piece of land to begin with.

2. Vote to combine RFP
for Police Station

Denise L. DiFranco said we had voted that there be two RFPs but now we need one RFP but completed in two parts, so we need to redo our motion.

Heidi Rogers moved to reconsider the vote of the September 14, 2023, on New Business Item C Approval of RFP in two parts, first was excavation, and second was the rest. David Paolino seconded. Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Heidi Rogers moved to combine the RFP for two phases.

David Paolino seconded.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Heidi Rogers moved to combine the RFP for two phases, including Phase 1, excavation, foundation, and cap, and potentially a cell tower, and Phase 2, the rest. David Paolino seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 4 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

3. Department Head
Meetings (per Charter
Sec. 2.21)

Denise L. DiFranco said to save time for the Department Heads and the Council the time she wanted to consider quarterly meetings. Heidi Rogers said it was in the Charter and questioned whether a motion was needed. Denise L. DiFranco said she wanted to streamline the process. David Paolino asked if he met twice in a month, he would meet the requirements of the Charter. It's not like we're not compliant, we're just not doing it together. The council president should know what is going on. Lynne Rider said she thought it meant that as a council you would meet with all of the Department Heads at the same time. When she was on [the town

council] with Mr. Lewis we met once a month. Heidi Rogers said the only problem she sees with that is that you can run into job performance. Ms. Rider said they never did. David Paolino said it would be about procedures not performance. Kelli Russ said it was very productive. Patty Moreau said when she was there they all met together. Heidi Rogers suggested they leave it till the end of the year.

4. Signage and
Landscaping/
Maintenance at the
Town Hall

David Paolino read the letter (see Exhibit B) from the planning board. Denise L. DiFranco said the letter was received in July; she put it off several times. She said she noticed the Coventry signs as you drive down the road. She thought that [kind of] signage was a good idea. As far as landscaping, she has noticed that a lot has been done along Howard Hill. She knows reference has been made to the gardens as you are entering Town Hall. Ms. DiFranco said they voted to allow citizens to volunteer to maintain that. The person in charge said there were no more volunteers. She also spoke to the planning board chair. His idea was to dig up the soil and put down sod. Ms. DiFranco said she thinks the DPW staff have a lot going on. David Paolino said he thought the volunteers had a vision. So they all agreed. Mr. Paolino said if he did it, it would be sod. Chris Stone suggested hiring a landscaper to maintain the gardens, but the budget doesn't support it. Chris Stone said how much is it going to cost to have somebody come in twice a month? David Paolino said but who is going to agree on what it should look like.

Gordon Rogers said he called the DPW director in Coventry. He would get prices on signs.

Lynne Rider said as far as the gardens, people liked what used to be there which were perennials. They wanted to keep it that way so that was put back. The problem is getting people to do it. If you put down sod and put in a sprinkler system that also took care of the flowers, that would be good. We have people in town who do landscape design, we could offer a little placard. Denise L. DiFranco said people are complaining about the fence, imagine if there were a sign on it.

When Denise L. DiFranco spoke to Mrs. Rodman about it, she was very concerned about putting sod down. She wanted it to look all natural.

Anna Rao said we are living in a historic town. We should have old-fashioned flowers.

Cheryl Hawes liked Chris's idea of a landscaper. The budget is for buildings and grounds; she thinks that should include landscaping. This year you may have used it all up. Maybe for next year, budget it in. She talked to the volunteers who seemed resentful that the town wasn't paying for it.

Mr. Rogers explained his clear cutting of the trees along Howard Hill Road and some people think he did a great job.

David Paolino doesn't know how to agree on what would look good at the Town Hall.

Lynne Rider said it comes down to "does the town have pride" and "are you going to buy into the sense of place." If you go to other communities, you usually

have a green lawn, and they may have garden societies who maintain it. The native plants that are there, with mulch, proper weeding, and watering, are not going to cost a great deal. Ms. Rider said they have Ginny Colwell come to Hemlock Village, it's just maintaining.
Helena Dolce said it looks great.

5. Multipurpose
Community Facility
Projects Municipal
Grant Fund: Update

Kelli Russ said she has spoken to multiple people. The person in charge of Gloucester's projects had said they were too far along but then realized it would be a very small commitment. So their programs would have to include our residents. She said they thought they had enough but they hadn't gone out to bid yet. She also spoke to Scituate and doesn't think they are moving forward.
The deadline is tomorrow. So in order to reserve our current \$381,000 we have to write an email saying we are going to enter into a collaborative agreement with Gloucester to combine our CPS allocation. We need to come up with an MOA.
Heidi Rogers moved to authorize Denise to send a letter to the State of Rhode Island Pandemic Recovery Office expressing our intention to allocate our funding to the Town of Gloucester as a collaborative project. Chris Stone seconded.
Discussion: Kelli Russ wanted to clarify that this is not the same thing as the 365. This grant is part of the American Recovery Fund. The 365 was a different grant.
David Paolino asked if the MOA would stipulate what safeguards are there for Foster residents. Kelli Russ said the Federal rules require it.
Motion passed 4 - 0.
Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

VI. SWEARING-IN OF
NEW COUNCIL
MEMBER

Denise L. DiFranco congratulated Cheryl Hawes on winning the election and swore her in as a council member. Ms. Hawes took her seat.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING
1st Hearing

Heidi Rogers read the ad (see Exhibit C).
Denise L. DiFranco opened the public hearing.
Planner Grant McGregor reviewed the ordinance revisions.

Sec. 38-91 – Procedure

Proposes amendments necessary to meet the requirements of RIGL effective January 1, 2024. Relating to appeals heard by the zoning board of review and the superior court.
No discussion.

Sec. 38-93 – Public Hearing

Proposes amendments necessary to meet the requirements of RIGL effective January 1, 2024. Relating to appeals heard by the zoning board of review and the superior court.
No discussion.

Sec. 38-94 – Decision and records of the zoning board of review

Proposes amendments necessary to meet the requirements of RIGL effective January 1, 2024. Relating to appeals heard by the zoning board of review and the superior court.

No discussion.

Anna Rao asked who was on the Zoning Board. Mr. McGregor said the chair was Manny Linhares, Bob Moreau, Manny Timoteo, Jason Simmons, Barbara Fell, Rudolph DiCenzo and Tim Dannenfelser. Mrs. Rao wanted to know if they were all living in Foster. Denise L. DiFranco told her that was a requirement.

Sec. 38-277 – Sewerage Disposal

Proposes reduction of setbacks in conjunction with proposed amendments to dimensional regulations. Discussion: Helena Dolce asked if it doesn't meet the requirements because of the land if it would go to the Zoning Board. Mr. McGregor said that was correct.

Sec. 38-285 – Standards for commercial and industrial development

Proposed removal of this reserved section and replacement with supplementary regulations pertaining to drive-through uses.

Discussion: None

Sec. 38-131 – Division of town into; enumeration

Proposes removal of the MI, NC, and R-SC in continuity with the proposed amendments to Sec. 38-132 – Official Zoning Map. Proposes addition of HC2 zoning district.

Discussion: None.

Sec. 38-272 – Yard Exceptions

Proposes removal of the MI, NC, and R-SC in continuity with the proposed amendments to Sec. 38-132 – Official Zoning Map. Proposes addition of HC2 zoning district.

Discussion: None.

Sec. 38-292 – Solar Installations

Proposes removal of the MI, NC, and R-SC in continuity with the proposed amendments to Sec. 38-132 – Official Zoning Map. Proposes addition of HC2 zoning district. Proposes the addition of battery storage as a major solar installation.

Discussion: Matt Gillooly asked if a permit would be needed to have a battery for a car or home solar. Mr. McGregor said if what he describes constitutes that, then yes. Julia Chretien says it applies to a major solar installation only. Denise L. DiFranco said not for your personal car. David Paolino said it's for commercial only. Mr. McGregor said he would clarify that.

Sec. 38-430 – Planning board report

Proposes the lack of changed conditions as a viable reason for the Planning Board to recommend an amendment to the Town's Zoning Ordinance.

Discussion: Lynne Rider asked for clarification. Mr. McGregor said the word they are eliminating is “change”.

Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing. Ms. DiFranco noted if there is a state emblem that is just Foster, and if it says Camoin, that is recommended by Camoin. The next hearing will be the 26th.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Nomination of Town Council Vice President

Chris Stone moved to elect Heidi Rogers as the Vice President. David Paolino seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

- 2. Appointment of Tax Collector-Administrator

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to appoint Cathy Hadfield as Tax Collector / Administrator. Kelli Russ said that is her recommendation, and that Cathy has been working in the position since April.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

- 3. Letter from the Conservation Committee

Denise L. DiFranco said they had a meeting with them in April. They sent a letter to the council (See Exhibit D). Heidi Rogers said they had discussed tagging items with prices for pickup. Gordon Rogers said he thought they misunderstood what he meant. Various solutions were discussed such as e-permitting, stickers available at Town Hall. Mr. Rogers said we are paying \$60-80 thousand a year because we are going over the tonnage amount. Lynne Rider said that before the tipping fee became an issue, the town had gotten a grant to encourage people to recycle more. Before you start levying another tax on people, try doing some remediation. Denise L. DiFranco said the big thing we are looking at is the furniture, construction materials, and those are concerns; and Rambone should not pick it up. Helene Dolce said she had taken many trips to the dump, and people should call Mr. Junk.

- 4. Town Hall Second Floor Build Out

Denise L. DiFranco said there are two different proposals. One is for the second floor build-out over the Finance wing submitted by the building and zoning official. Then Mr. Rogers provided quotes for a 13' x 13' foyer for an interior passage. David Paolino said it would be done in two phases. Funding continued to the next meeting. Denise L. DiFranco said there were monies put aside. Kelli Russ said she has not seen an invoice yet but based on George's list, it will go over the \$25,000 put aside. Denise L. DiFranco asked if it would be feasible to do both of these. Ms. Russ said it depends, some of it is doable. So there is an additional \$60,000 above the \$45,000 to do both. Mr. Rogers says he thinks he could get it cheaper than that. You can do one side now for \$18,000. Speaking of a staircase on the outside now that you can see it. Ms. Russ said it was her understanding they would not moving forward with that egress.

David Paolino said that as it stands right now, our understanding is George had submitted plans to the State Fire Marshall, to a review board. He doesn't feel a second egress is required. We are continuing the build out as agreed. If a second build-out is needed, we will proceed with that again. If we don't get a satisfactory ruling, we can appeal. He wants to see that Grant has a usable space upstairs and George has a usable space downstairs. We all agree we should raise the roof and connect the two. He doesn't think we can afford it now.

Cheryl Hawes asked if this got approved when we didn't have the money for it. Ms. Russ said we should reallocate some of the ARPA funds and move those projects to capital. Denise L. DiFranco said she wanted everyone to be on the same page. Julia Chretien said additional funding is not on the agenda so it should be continued.

Patty Moreau, Central Pike, asked when they decided they did not need another egress. Mr. Paolino said it was conjecture; the plans were submitted and the state engineer will review them. Ms. Moreau said when Joe Cardillo was the DPW Director and we talked about upstairs and they were told it could not be done because of the size of the windows and there was no egress. Mr. Paolino said that never came into play; what did come into play was the distance to the downstairs entrance. Ms. Moreau said that back then they said if you didn't have another egress you couldn't do it. Mr. Moreau said the reason the second floor wasn't used because the State Fire Marshall said it was because of the windows and the egress. Mr. Paolino said it was all opinion because it was never submitted for review. He had seen good people make bad decisions and it doesn't mean anything. Heidi Rogers said we are going to get it in writing. Cheryl asked if it is \$61,700 to finish it? David Paolino said with the egress; \$46,000 without it. Kelli Russ said that is not the plan they are going to go with. David Paolino said we're going with, if we have to, we'll have Gordon raise the roof. Denise L. DiFranco said we have it on the next agenda for the funding and hopefully we will have some answers then.

5. Approval of Bid for
Winter Sand

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the DPW Director's recommendation for Winter Sand for the price of \$19.75 per ton delivered or \$16.75 picked up from DiFazzio. David Paolino seconded.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

6. Bid Award for
Municipal Technical
Assistance Program
Grant: RFP and Spec

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of Planner Grant McGregor for Libra Planners for Task 1, \$13,000; Task 2, \$10,000; Task 3, \$38,000, and \$4,000 for Remote Executive Meetings for a total of \$65,000. Chris Stone seconded.

Discussion: Grant McGregor said that funding comes directly from RI Housing. Denise L. DiFranco asked about his decision. Mr. McGregor said the primary reason was that they understand Foster. They are out of Newport

and the others were talking about very large developments that didn't seem to be consistent with the town's character. Libra is able to play to historical architecture and smaller developments. They would do things more efficiently. Kelli Russ said that it was important to know that if we don't get the funding for this, we don't move forward.

Heidi Rogers withdrew her motion. Chris Stone withdrew his second.

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of the Town Planner to hire Libra Planners for the Municipal Technical Assistance program from RI Housing contingent upon funding from the state in the total amount of \$65,000.00. Chris Stone seconded.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

7. Bid Award for Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of the Town Planner to hire Fairweather Science for the National Hazard Mitigation Plan Update in the amount of \$17,250 for a total of 177 hours. Chris Stone seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Heidi Rogers, aye; Chris Stone, aye; David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Kelli Russ said that funding has already been received.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
Contract Negotiations:
RI Laborers District
Council, Local 1322

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 for a work session regarding Collective Bargaining according to RIGL 42-46-5-(A)2 and to reconvene into open session and to further keep the minutes of said meeting closed and the minutes of all executive sessions held previous to this meeting remain closed in accordance with provisions in RIGL 42-46-4 & 5. No discussion.

Motion passed 4-0.

The council reconvened in to Open Session. Denise L. DiFranco announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn passed 5 - 0.

Submitted by,

Michaela Johnson, Deputy Town Clerk

TOWN OF FOSTER

On September 28, 2023 The Foster Town Council will conduct a Public Hearing at 6:00 PM at 6-South Killingly Road (Benjamin Eddy Building). On the agenda will be discussion of four zoning ordinances recommended by the Planning Board at its August meeting.

The recommendations include the addition of a section to the Foster Zoning Ordinance. Sec. 38-358 is currently reserved. Design standards for the newly proposed HC2 zoning district are proposed to be added under Sec. 38-358.

The recommendations include amendments to the Foster Zoning Ordinance Sec. 38-191 - (Table of uses). All use categories and notes to be amended based on zoning map amendment recommended by Planning Board on July 19, 2023 and heard by Council on August 10, 2023.

The recommendations also include amendments to the Foster zoning Ordinance Sec. 38- 192 (Dimensional regulations) in consistency with the proposed zoning map amendment referenced and dated in the paragraph above.

The recommendations also include amendments to the Foster zoning Ordinance Sec. 38- 288 (Sign Regulations) in consistency with the proposed zoning map amendment referenced and dated in the third paragraph.

Copies of the proposed amendments, additions, and removals can be found online at <https://www.townoffoster.com/planning-department>. Copies can also be obtained from the Foster Planning Office during regular business hours by appointment only. The proposed amendments, additions, and removals may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any alteration or amendment must be presented for comment in the course of the hearing.

Individuals requiring interpreter service must notify the Town Clerk's Office at (401) 392- 9200 at least 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

By order of the Town Council,
Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk



Town of Foster

Est. 1781

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Anthony Renzi, Chairman
Foster Planning Board
181 Howard Hill Road
Foster, RI 02825

July 26, 2023

Denise DiFranco, President
Foster Town Council
181 Howard Hill Road
Foster, Rhode Island 02825

To Honorable Town Council President and Town Council:

On June 7, 2023 the Planning Board convened for a regularly scheduled meeting. Action was taken on agenda item E (Signage and landscaping on Municipal property).

A motion was made for the Planner to offer a recommendation relating to signage and landscaping/maintenance at the Town Hall, in addition to identifying select Town Properties in effort to develop uniform design standards of Town-owned property.

The Economic Development Strategy prepared by Camoin Associates lists in Goal 1: "Improve the sense of place along commercial corridors by enhancing the overall appearance and aesthetic of the main entrances to the community" While this suggestion is directly relating to roads, the Planning Board feels that The Town Hall is a main entrance to the community.

As the appearance of this main entrance does not meet the standards of the Planning Board – which shall act in an advisory capacity to the Town Council in all matters concerning the physical growth and development of the Town and affecting the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the people, the Planning Board recommends improved maintenance of the area surrounding the Town Hall.

TOWN OF FOSTER

On **October 12, 2023** The Foster Town Council will conduct a Public Hearing at **6:00 PM** at 6 South Killingly Road (Benjamin Eddy Building). On the agenda will be discussion of three zoning ordinances, recommended by the Planning Board at its September 6 meeting.

The recommendations include amendments to the Foster Zoning Ordinance Sec. 38-91 – Procedure; Sec. 38-93 – Public Hearing; Sec. 38-94 – Decision and records of the zoning board of review; Sec. 38-277 – Sewerage Disposal; Sec. 38-285 – Standards for commercial and industrial development; Sec. 38-131 – Division of Town into; enumeration; Sec. 38-272 Yard exceptions; Sec. 38-292 – Solar installations; and Sec. 38-430 – Planning board report.

Copies of the proposed amendments, additions, and removals can be found online at <https://www.townoffoster.com/planning-department>. Copies can also be obtained from the Foster Planning Office during regular business hours. The proposed amendments, additions, and removals may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing. Any alteration or amendment must be presented for comment in the course of the hearing.

Individuals requiring interpreter service must notify the Town Clerk's Office at (401) 392-9200 at least 72 hours in advance of the hearing date.

By order of the Town Council,
Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk

Denise DiFranco
President, Foster Town Council
181 Howard Hill Road
Foster RI 02825

Dear Ms. DiFranco,

On April 13, 2023, members of the Foster Conservation Commission joined with the Foster Town Council in an effort to consider ways to help Foster reduce the excess tipping fees that the town continues to incur on an annual basis. After a less than productive discussion, during which all suggestions put forth by Foster Conservation members were quickly ridiculed and dismissed by the DPW director, we hesitantly agreed to look into producing a flyer/mailler to distribute to the Town, with the purpose of reminding our fellow residents of how to help reduce our disposal budget by utilizing proper recycling practices.

During our monthly meeting, we have determined that the DPW director has full and complete knowledge of all things recycling in Foster and the State of RI. At this point, as no single one of us are a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in solid waste disposal, nor graphic artist, we must decline trying to create any flyer/mailler that can be useful. To depend on a volunteer committee to implement basic DPW town functions is not effective or sustainable.

The DPW director is in the best position as a SME and has full access to all Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation updated recycling information, as well as the resources to create an up to date informational flyer/mailler through the RIRRC. The best efforts to reduce tipping fee has to originate from our local elected and appointed leadership to be effective.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter, and please be assured the Foster Conservation Commission will continue to promote our core values of Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle. We also anticipate increased community participation and vendors in our annual Earth Day Cleanup & Conservation Fair.

With Regards,
David Rathbun
Chair, Foster Conservation Commission

CC.
Susan Dillion
Town Clerk

Gordon Rogers
Foster DPW