

Town Council Meeting  
October 26, 2023

The October 26, 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:

**Denise L. DiFranco, President**  
**Heidi Rogers**  
**Chris Stone**  
**David Paolino**  
**Cheryl Hawes**

Also present:

Kelli Russ, Finance Director  
Grant McGregor, Planner  
Gordon Rogers, DPW Director  
Julia Chretien, Assistant Solicitor  
Police Chief Lindell

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENT**

Denise L. DiFranco asked for a moment of silence for Lance Tibbetts who passed away; he was the husband of Linda Tibbetts of the Land Trust.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Sherri Griffith, 9 Johnson Road, stated that she is a school bus driver in town. She said she has concerns about liability because of changes regarding the door-to-door policy. Even though it says we must drop children off on the same side of the road as they reside, we are dropping 12-year-olds off at crossing roads.

Lynne Rider, Burgess Road, said that at the last meeting the gardens at the Town Hall were discussed and Mr. Stone suggested hiring professionals. The gardens were weed-whacked down to a quarter of an inch from the soil. This is not what you do with perennials at this time of year. A lot of perennials come back on some of the old growth. Also by leaving some of the old stuff, you're insulating the ground for the winter and helping the plants survive. A lot of residents paid for the plants. If people don't know what they are doing, it should be hands off because we're going backwards again.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Meeting Minutes  
Approval of October 12, 2023
2. Approval of General Warrants FY2024 #7  
\$438,966.17
3. Quarterly Reports (July-September)
4. Monthly Reports (September)

Chris Stone moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. David Paolino seconded.

Denise L. DiFranco asked if we received all the Quarterly Reports and Monthly Reports. The Town Clerk said not all of them. Denise L. DiFranco asked for the departments that have not complied so she can send an email out.

Lynne Rider asked about Warrant #7 for \$438,966; she was wondering what that is for. Kelli Russ said that

\$155,000 was for the new Mack Truck, Health Insurance was another \$50,000. Legal Services was around \$10,000. \$21,000 for Scituate Animal Control Officer. \$10,000+ for mold remediation. And all of our State reports were due for Conveyance fees, historical records, RIRRC, and the waste disposal contract for Rambone \$30,000,

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

**IV. SWEARING-IN  
CEREMONY**

1. Officer Dennis Smith
2. Officer Jared Boudreault

Police Chief Gina-marie Lindell swore in Officers Dennis Smith and Jared Boudreault.

Denise L. DiFranco asked that Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Boudreault place the pins on their husbands.

**V. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Kennel License —  
Nana Diana's Dog Daycare

Denise L. DiFranco opened the public hearing.

Heidi Rogers read the ad (see Exhibit A).

Diana Singleton explained her plans to keep six dogs at maximum in her home, Monday through Friday, pick up and drop off. She intends to cater to very small dogs that need special care.

Denise L. DiFranco asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition.

Don McConnon 42-A South Killingly Road, asked about zoning. He said he was concerned about noise. He said they hear barking, as it is, all the time right next to us. With eight more, what will it turn into?

Denise L. DiFranco asked what his concern was about zoning. Mr. McConnon said he didn't think it was a commercial area. Denise L. DiFranco said it was a permitted use which why it has come before the council.

Denise L. DiFranco asked Planner Grant McGregor to explain. Mr. McGregor said that any business under Section 38-394 is supposed to come in front of the planning board for a commercial site plan. He

understands that has not always been the case. At the planning board meeting on November 1, he will propose adding in kennels under business uses so there's no longer a question as to whether or not a kennel has to go before the planning board before going to the council.

Mr. McConnon said you should have done it before.

Denise L. DiFranco said we cannot institute an ordinance just to close somebody out. What Grant is proposing is for the future.

Lynne Rider, Burgess Road, asked for clarification. She said that Country Mutt had to go before the planning board, was that because they were building the building?

Denise L. DiFranco said yes.

Anna Rao, Central Pike, asked where 59A is. Ms.

Singleton explained it was on Balcom Road between North Road and South Killingly.

Denise L. DiFranco asked if anyone else would like to speak in opposition.

Scott Ulricksen, Balcom Road, said his opinion is the same as the last meeting. He is concerned about barking dogs and the increased traffic on the narrow, unimproved, minimal safety one lane road he lives on. He personally has been in an accident, and his friend's daughter was in an accident trying to leave his driveway. Ultimately, he said he might still vote for it. Denise L.

DiFranco explained that he doesn't get to vote. He said he gets to have an opinion and you get to ignore the opinions he has. Heidi Rogers said we take them into

consideration. Mr. Ulricksen said he wasn't talking to her.

Denise L. DiFranco asked him not to be rude to council members. David Paolino asked him to state his case. Mr.

Ulricksen asked if anyone spoke in favor at the last meeting. If nobody is saying they want to have it, and there's questions about the zoning. If you can claim it's not a business and you're going to vote on it, then explain that. He asked what his recourse would be.

Heidi Rogers said that she [Ms. Singleton] is applying for a license until April 30, and at that time she would have to request a renewal, and if there some legitimate concerns we would have to consider them at that time and either approve or deny. Mr. Ulricksen said the only reason it didn't pass is because of this gentleman [refers to David Paolino] and he believes he was very biased.

David Paolino said it was not for the reasons you're stating.

Denise L. DiFranco called again for those in opposition.

Susan McConnon, 42A South Killingly Road, said she doesn't know what happens to all that dog waste. Does it go over the fence into her backyard? If this passes and she gets her license, come April is there another meeting?

Denise L. DiFranco said yes. Ms. McConnon said it's not on her road, but it's right there. She has one next to her that barks and barks and barks. If you have in-and-out, six-to-nine dogs and they're barking— Heidi Rogers said her hours of operation are between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. and they are not going to be outside all the time. Ms.

McConnon said you know they're going to be outside. She doesn't want to listen to some dog from Timbuktu barking in her backyard. Her other wonderment is what happens to the other dogs when you take one dog outside, you don't know what is going on inside.

Denise L. DiFranco asked Diana Singleton to come up and address the issues raised.

Ms. Singleton said she can sit in her home with her three dogs and hear other dogs barking around her, it doesn't bother her but she understands the concerns of others. The only time one of the little ones bark is if someone comes up on the porch to deliver. If they are out in the back going to the bathroom, she is home. She is out there with them. She doesn't appreciate incessant barking of her own dogs so she understands that. If this little dog is outside going to the bathroom, how do you know what's going on. Ms. Singleton said she ran a boarding kennel of 25 to 30 dogs, much like Country Mutt, and she said people don't understand that if it's a daycare situation, dogs aren't just left outside all day long. You have to give them down time in a safe environment. She intends to use playpen enclosures for the inside dogs. There will never be any loose dogs running around.

Denise L. DiFranco asked her to address the dog waste. Ms. Singleton said there is a "Dog Dooley System." She does not throw the waste into the woods. It's like a septic in the ground and it uses enzymes to dissolve the dog waste. Ms. Singleton said she is meticulous and since being in Foster, she has gotten a lot of backlash. She has to meet state requirements and then she has to try to get some business. This will take some time. She said she is welcome to meet with anyone who wants to come to her door.

Denise L. DiFranco asked for those who would like to speak in support.

Gordon Rogers, Cucumber Hill Road, said that there are people who have twenty or thirty dogs in this town. If I wanted to have 35 dogs, have them registered and have them vaccinated on my property, that is allowed. What is important is if somebody applies, if you want to board, breed, or sell, it kicks it into a Kennel License. And it's important to note that people fought it, is that you want that person who is going to have that amount of dogs to have some control. I can have 35 dogs, but if I want to board one dog, I need to apply for a license which is overseen by the State of RI, the dog officer and annual renewal of license.

Julia Chretien pulled up the ordinance and said it is within 500 feet that people [abutters] need to be notified.

David Paolino said this is why these things should go before the planning board. Ms. Chretien said unfortunately she will have to apply again. Grant McGregor explained how the ordinance will be changed. Julia Chretien said it has to be re-advertised and notices will have to be sent out.

Denise L. DiFranco said they cannot move forward. She apologized to Ms. Singleton. There will be more people to be notified. They will schedule it November 9.

Ms. Singleton said she understood and appreciated the input.

Denise L. DiFranco ended the public hearing.

2. Zoning – 2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing

Heidi Rogers read the ad (see Exhibit B).

Denise L. DiFranco opened the public hearing and explained that they will be able to vote on the proposals today.

Grant McGregor reviewed the ordinances:

Denise L. DiFranco asked for those who are in opposition to the ordinance changes.

Lynne Rider, Burgess Road, asked about the solar and battery ordinances, if we get more farms and home businesses, and you have a good-sized farm you are going to have to get a sizeable battery. David Paolino said if you are not a major solar farm selling the utility, and are using it for home use it doesn't apply. The battery storage has nothing to do with the size.

Anna Rao, Central Pike, asked about the change. Mr.

McGregor said every time the planning board recommends a zoning ordinance they have to cite RIGL and he also has to get a recommendation on situations that changed. If you have nonconforming rights, then you have nonconforming rights. Mrs. Rao said her land was taken away on the town map, and when she asked they said it was a picture taken from the height. Denise L. DiFranco said we cannot take her land away.

Denise L. DiFranco asked a third time if anyone would like to speak in opposition. There was none.

Denise L. DiFranco asked three times if anyone would like to speak in favor.

Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing and opened it to the council.

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of the planning board to amend **Sec. 38-91** – Procedure Proposed 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. Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of the planning board to amend **Sec. 38-93** – Public Hearing

Proposed 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.

Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of the planning board to amend **Sec. 38-94** – Decision and records of the Zoning Board of Review

Proposed 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.

Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of the planning board to amend **Sec. 38-277** – Sewerage Disposal

Proposed reduction of setbacks in conjunction with proposed amendments to dimensional regulations.

David Paolino seconded.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of the planning board to amend **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.

Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of the planning board to amend **Sec. 38-131** – Division of town into; enumeration

Proposed 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.

David Paolino seconded.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of the planning board to amend **Sec. 38-272** – Yard Exceptions

Proposed 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.

Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of the planning board to amend **Sec. 38-292** – Solar Installations

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

- If the battery energy storage systems/methods associated with battery energy storage systems that meet the sale and/or size requirements of a major solar installation shall be considered a major solar installation;
- If the battery energy storage systems/methods associated with batter energy storage systems that meet the size requirements of a medium solar installation shall be considered a medium solar installation;
- If the battery energy systems/methods associated with batter energy storage systems that meet the size requirements of a minor solar installation shall be conserved a minor solar installation.

David Paolino seconded.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the recommendation of the planning board to amend **Sec. 38-430** – Planning board report

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

Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

3. Zoning – 1<sup>st</sup> Hearing

Heidi Rogers read the ad (see Exhibit C)  
Grant McGregor explained the proposed changes.  
Denise L. DiFranco opened the public hearing.

**Sec. 38-1 – Purpose (Amendment)**

Proposes amendments necessary to meet the requirements of RIGL. Regarding purposes of zoning.

**Sec. 38-36 – Enforcement of Chapter (Amendment)**

Proposes amendments to match the definitions section. Clarifies responsibility in enforcement by position.

**Sec. 38-227 - Merger of substandard lot of record (Amendment)**

Proposes amendments necessary to meet the requirements of RIGL. Adds provision that the merger of lots shall not be required when the substandard lot of record has an area equal to or greater than the area of fifty percent (50%) of the lots within two hundred feet (200 ft.) of the subject lot. Mr. McGregor said if you own a substandard lot where there are a lot of substandard lots within 200 feet of a substandard lot then a merger would not be required.

Heidi Rogers asked if she has a five-acre lot and has a substandard lot next to it and she wants to build on that, can she, or does it get merged? Mr. McGregor said it would be merged. Ms. Rogers said but if they are substandard lots of record now, you can build on each one. This is saying these merge and you can only build on one property. David Paolino said that once it is permitted, that won't change.

Gordon Rogers said if the same name was on it, the Town would automatically merge it. The idea is to create more housing [from lots that aren't lots of record].

Anna Rao asked how much frontage is required. Mr. McGregor said 300 ft. Ms. Rao was afraid she has too much. David Paolino said she can have more. Denise L. DiFranco told Ms. Rao that she does not have a substandard lot of record.

**Sec. 38-230 – Nonconforming by use (Amendment)**

Proposes amendment to add text from RIGL 45-24-31 (52)(i), which describes lawfully established use of land, building, or structures which are nonconforming by use to Sec. 38-230.

**Sec. 38-234 – Continuation of use (Amendment)**

Proposes uses of land be added to Sec. 38-234, which currently only describes nonconforming rights providing for continuation of a use in any building or structure.



**Sec. 38-237 – Enlargement (Amendment)**

Proposes addition of maximum building coverage to the cited dimensional requirements which enlargement of a nonconforming use shall meet. Proposes removal of inaccurate line of text. Mr. McGregor explained what a nonconforming use was.

**Sec. 38- 276 – Lots divided by zoning district boundary (Removal and Replacement)**

Proposes removal of ordinance allowing for a zoning district to extend up to 50 feet into a lot located in a different zoning district. Proposes replacement with standards for fruit and vegetable stands currently found in Sec. 38-191. Proposes removal of the requirement of a stand to occupy the same lot as the owner.

Matt Gillooly, Winsor Road, asked about fruit stands.

**Sec. 38-291 – Regulations pertaining to communications towers and antennas (Corrective Amendment)**

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 re-addition of language, which was omitted by error during codification.

Lynne Rider asked if one of the things removed was location. Mr. McGregor said yes. Ms. Rider said she is looking at the tower in Foster Center; it will be in an historic district. Catherine Bay said that it is being discussed. Matt Gillooly said he was a ham radio enthusiast and said the lockable fence was excessive. David Paolino said this is commercial public safety not for home enthusiasts. Julia Chretien said they would be grandfathered in.

**Sec. 38-295 – 38-320 – Reserved (Addition to reserved ordinance)**

Proposes supplementary regulations for recreational marijuana uses and development regulations for a future Municipal/Historic overlay district.

Anna Rao asked how many people have applied for licenses. Ms. Chretien said they are issued by the State. Denise L. DiFranco said nothing has opened yet; there are none.

**Sec. 38-356 – Residential compounds (Amendment)**

Proposes clarifying language to frontage requirements and removal of five-year eligibility requirement; removal of subdivision after 1998 ineligibility. Heidi Rogers said

so then once you have the compound you couldn't subdivide again.

Phillip Keefe, 18 Barb's Hill Road, said the low to moderate housing will trump all of that. The 30 acres could have 25 houses in there. Gordon Rogers said you could do five houses on five acres. Heidi Rogers said that this is the way it is now unless we have a plan. Mr. McGregor said yes, you can add language to that. Mr. Rogers said that if a parent created a lot for an older child and then later wanted to make a lot for a younger one, they couldn't. This removes that. David Paolino said that doesn't sound like a reasonable ordinance we had in place. Scott Reed, Foster Center Road, asked about 28 acres, wanted to build an accessory house for his parents. David Paolino said that's a question for Grant on Monday. Lynne Rider said she assumes low to moderate income development cannot just happen haphazardly throughout the town. The planning board is working on where that will be. When can we expect that plan? Mr. McGregor said we just got approval from RI Housing. He thought December.

Cheryl Hawes said but DEM will not permit that many houses on a small lot. Heidi Rogers said with sand filters, there are all kinds of septic systems they can use now, you can put five houses on a lot.

**Sec. 38-390 - Site plan for accessory nonfamily dwelling units (Addition to reserved ordinance)**

Proposes specification that these site plans shall be submitted according to building permit standards.

Mr. McGregor said the current regulations can only be 650 sq. ft. and attached to the main structure and that is still valid under Foster. You could expand the footprint; you could have a breezeway. Denise L. DiFranco asked if we could see a change in the future. Mr. McGregor said yes. Ms. Chretien said it does not have to be a family member.

Gordon Rogers said accessory dwelling units is an issue up at the State House. It used to mean immediate family member, then an extended family member, and now it doesn't even have to be a family member. It was blocked in the Senate but it is more than likely to pass this year. Lynne Rider asked Mr. McGregor to read the definition of an accessory dwelling.

**Sec. 38-391 – Site plan for residential compounds (Addition to reserved ordinance)**

Proposes adding specifications for site plans for residential compounds. These specifications exist within the zoning ordinance.

**Sec. 38-191** – Table of uses - Wholesale Business and Storage Uses #7 (Addition)

Proposes addition of a storage use allowing the keeping of equipment and materials used for purposes including, but not limited to, landscaping, agriculture, construction, and woodworking. Mr. McGregor noted that animals would be strictly prohibited.

Denise L. DiFranco asked three times if anyone would like to speak in opposition to any of these ordinances as presented.

Denise L. DiFranco asked three times if anyone would like to speak in favor of the ordinances as presented.

Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing and noted that this is the first hearing so they would not be voting on them. It will be on the November 9 agenda as a second reading where we will be able to vote on them.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Entrance to Town - Signage

Denise L. DiFranco said at the last meeting they had discussed the signage in Coventry. Gordon Rogers said he spoke to Coventry and the total was \$790. The signs were \$200 + change apiece. He will get approval of RIDOT.

Denise L. DiFranco said to discuss how many to order and placement. David Paolino suggested that Gordon and Grant work out the details and bring back a plan.

2. Community Facility Project Fund, Update

Denise L. DiFranco referred to a letter regarding joining with Glocester. We need to start communicating with Glocester and come up with a Memorandum of Agreement. We have to make sure they meet their target. We need to meet with them and do this by December 31. David Paolino moved that we appoint Denise L. DiFranco and Cheryl Hawes to negotiate with Kelli Russ and Grant McGregor and the Glocester Town Council. Chris Stone seconded.

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco said they accept the assignment.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

3. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Projects

Kelli Russ reviewed the projects that have been completed and the ones in progress.

4. Funding for Town Hall Second Floor Build-Out

Denise L. DiFranco read a letter submitted by David Rathbun (see Exhibit D). He was unable to make the meeting in person. David Paolino asked if any of the needs mentioned was asked for in the budget.

Denise L. DiFranco said the price of a rescue is ridiculous. Small towns are going to be forced out.

Cheryl Hawes said she agreed but they need to be able to buy the basics of what they need and we're not looking at that. If that's going to happen, we need a plan.

David Paolino said they present their package. Ms. Hawes said she knows that but she also knows that things happen all the time. Chris Stone said they gave the Engineering Board \$150,000 and they get to say where it is spent. Cheryl Hawes said the offices are being done regardless of whether the ceiling is going up or not. She thought there was going to be an outside egress. Ms. Hawes said that she was saying we don't have a lot of money. David Paolino the point is what we are doing without a lot of money. Chris Stone said we're doing pretty good.

Lynne Rider, Burgess Road, said in all fairness, you put in \$150,000, but how many years has that [amount] been in place? Things are rising. David Paolino then why doesn't their budget request reflect their needs? Ms. Rider said because they know how much they are going to get. David Paolino said he doesn't think that's fair because we are trusting the experts to give us a proposal. Why would he second guess that?

Denise L. DiFranco said we don't know what we are going to do, we're going to have to regionalize or something.

Catherine Bay said that amount doesn't buy a truck. Chris Stone said the money doesn't fall out of the trees, it's coming out of the citizens' pockets.

David Paolino said in his world he has to budget and plan. Why aren't these needs being taken care of in

discussions? Now you say that you need a truck this year.

That's not good stewardship and you're not controlling your budget. Ms. Bay said but when we did say we were going to need a truck, there was no money for a truck.

Kelli Russ said we have \$500,000 put aside for their equipment. She hasn't charged anything against except when someone was doing repairs. And we'll do another \$150,000, then another \$150,000 so we are building on it. So we're pretty close. It's been accumulating.

Cheryl Hawes said she just doesn't think this is the time to do the second floor. There are just too many irons in the fire where we don't know what the totals are going to be and she doesn't know what the cost of adding the second floor is. Kelli Russ said the first part is \$45,000 - \$47,000 without the egress. Denise L. DiFranco said so that means it will be another \$25,000 set aside for the raising of the roof. Her opinion is that we are a town that is reactive; we are never proactive and looking to the future. We have the money put aside, which we voted on that we would do this for the future. David Paolino said the second floor renovation is a necessity because of Covid exposure. The building and zoning director and

DPW need an adequate place to meet, and sit, and have office space. The office space downstairs is too small. Denise L. DiFranco said there should be some privacy when talking about violations.

Kelli Russ said she needs a motion to fund what they have already done and are currently doing.

Heidi Rogers moved to reallocate ARPA funds that we have set aside for the Recreation Field to the Town Hall renovations in the amount of \$55,000.00. David Paolino seconded.

Discussion: David Paolino said we could move it out later. Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Nov/Dec Town Council Meeting Schedule**

Denise L. DiFranco said they have a meeting already scheduled for November 9. It will be at the Town House and there will be a public hearing. The next meeting date would have been on Thanksgiving. We will be having a special meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> for the police building committee. Do you feel we need another meeting between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>? Susan Dillon confirmed that the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> will be at the Town House.

Heidi Rogers moved to eliminate the meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and have a special meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Denise L. DiFranco said next is December. We have meetings scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>. The 28<sup>th</sup> is Christmas week. What is the pleasure of the council? Do we need another meeting in December?

David Paolino moved to eliminate the December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. 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.

### **2. Appointment of Committee for Hazard Mitigation**

Denise L. DiFranco said that in the past it has been the planner, finance, council president, EMA, EMS people, DPW, someone from the Engineering Board. Grant McGregor said there is a State requirement for these people; we can also invite anyone in addition that we want.

Heidi Rogers moved to appoint the required people and personnel to the Committee for Hazard Mitigation and allow the Engineering Board to elect their representative.

David Paolino seconded.

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco said the liaison for the Engineering Board is Mr. Stockwell but he hasn't been feeling well so she suggested sending it to the chiefs.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

3. Approval of  
Thanksgiving  
Proclamation

Denise L. DiFranco said she was approached by the Foster Church Association to have a Proclamation for their November 19 Thanksgiving ecumenical services at Foster Center Baptist Church.

Heidi Rogers read the proclamation (see Exhibit E).

Heidi Rogers moved to approve the Proclamation. Chris Stone seconded.

Discussion: Cheryl Hawes volunteered to read it at the church.

Motion passed 5 - 0.

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

4. Coverage of DSS  
Department

Denise L. DiFranco said that Allison is out for a few weeks and has submitted some of the things that need to be covered. What she is concerned about is how to cover her office. One thing we did was to move the doorbell upstairs to Finance so they can open the window and find out who it is. We will be putting a sign on the door. Food can be left, and there will be limited hours. Once Kelli and Sue figure out a time frame we will send out a notice of when the office will be covered.

Lynne Rider said usually they start asking for Thanksgiving preparation way ahead. Denise L. DiFranco said that Allison has addressed that.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5,  
(A), (2) Contracts  
Foster Cell Tower Lease  
Agreement with Foster  
Center Fire Department.

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 for a work session regarding Contract and Litigation 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 5-0.

The council reconvened in to Open Session at 9:50 p.m. Denise L. DiFranco announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn passed 5 - 0 at 9:55.

Submitted by, Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF FOSTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE is hereby given by the Foster Town Council, being the Licensing Board in said town under RIGL 4-13-10 of the General Laws of RI, 1956, as amended; that a Public Hearing will be held on October 26, 2023 at 6:00 P.M., at the Benjamin Eddy Building located at 6 South Killingly Rd, Foster, RI. Diana Singleton DBA Nana Diana's Dog Daycare of 159A Balcom Road, Foster, RI has applied to said Council for a Kennel License valid through April 30, 2024. At which time and place all persons are entitled to be heard. If communication assistance is needed please contact the Town Clerk at least 72 hours in advance.

By Order of the Foster Town Council  
Susan M. Dillon, Foster Town Clerk

## 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



## **TOWN OF FOSTER**

On October 26, 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 thirteen zoning ordinances, recommended by the Planning Board at its September 20 meeting.

The recommendations include amendments to the Foster Zoning Ordinance Sec. 38-1 – Purpose; Sec. 38-36 – Enforcement of chapter; Sec. 38-227 – Merger of substandard lot of record; Sec. 38-230 – Nonconforming by use; Sec. 38-234 – Continuation of use; Sec. 38-237 – Enlargement; Sec. 38-276 – Lots divided by zoning district boundary; Sec. 38-291 – Regulations pertaining to communications towers and antennas; Sec. 38-295 – 38-320 – Reserved; Sec. 38-356 – Residential compounds; Sec. 38- 390 - Site plan for accessory nonfamily dwelling units; Sec. 38-391 – Site plan for residential compounds; and Sec. 38-191 – Table of uses - Wholesale Business and Storage Uses #7.

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

**Sue Dillon**

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**From:** Denise DiFranco <ddifrancoftc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 7:33 PM  
**To:** Sue Dillon  
**Subject:** Fwd: Thursday TC agenda

Please place this email in SugarSync and email to the other council members.  
Thank you,  
Denise

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Dave Rathbun** <rathbun.david.a@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wed, Oct 25, 2023 at 9:22 AM  
**Subject:** Thursday TC agenda  
**To:** Denise DiFranco <ddifrancoftc@gmail.com>

Hi Denise. Hope all is well

**I am not sure if I can get to the TC meeting Thursday night however I would like to voice my opinion on item#4 I see on the agenda under old business**

**This nonsense about Town Hall 2nd floor build out should be pushed back. Our fire departments are running on shoestrings and crumbs. Our equipment is 20+/- years old. Our Brush truck is 35 years old. Our Unit Truck needs replacing. Capitol budget never seems to have enough money. A new Firetruck is in the range of \$800k now!! How will we ever afford to replace anything? Our volunteers are overwhelmed without a single thanks or acknowledgment from the council. We are the only EMS volunteer organization around town that does not offer ANY incentive plan to the first responders. To spend money on raising the roof of the town hall for an office for whoever should not even be considered until the fire department's are financially stable**

Thanks for hearing my opinion !  
Have a great day

Thanks  
~dr

## TOWN OF FOSTER PROCLAMATION OF THANKSGIVING DAY

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**Whereas**, the month of November holds historical significance in giving thanks for the Town of Foster's distinguishing characteristics, and

**Whereas**, people in the Town of Foster can view the stars in the night sky, hear the birds early on a spring morning; enjoy the sounds and scents of nature in summer at dusk; and view the changing colors of the leaves in autumn; and appreciate the crunch of newly fallen snow under foot, and

**Whereas**, the people of the Town of Foster respect the beauty of our natural environment and recognize their obligation to protect it for future generations, and

**Whereas**, the citizens of the Town of Foster exhibit the spirit of volunteerism as shown by the Volunteer Fire Companies, the EMS, and service on various boards, commissions, and organizations, and

**Whereas**, the citizens of the Town of Foster assist those facing financial challenges through donations of goods, and by donating to the food pantries at the Department of Human Services and local churches; and

**Whereas**, the populace of the Town of Foster appreciates and supports the creative works of its people through Swamp Meadow Community Theatre and other arts organizations, and

**Whereas**, the populace of the Town of Foster gathers together and supports community events such as Foster Old Home Days, Concert in the Valley, Community Yard Sale, Artists' Open Studios, Trunk and Treat, Christmas in the Valley, and Bright Nights and

**Whereas**, the people of the Town of Foster recognize and respond to the need for conservation through recycling that which can be recycled to diminish the damaging impact on our environment, and preserving valuable resources through the Foster Land Trust and Borders' Farm, and

**Whereas**, the people of the Town of Foster respect and preserve the past through supporting projects to protect our historical buildings, stone walls, town pound, and cemeteries, and

**Whereas**, the people of the Town of Foster plan for the future through the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Conservation Commission, Library Board, and Recreation Committees, and

**Whereas**, the citizens of the Town of Foster of all beliefs are invited, once a year, to gather in a spirit of Thanksgiving at this Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council for the Town of Foster affirms its commitment to a positive quality of life for residents and is proud to proclaim November 23, 2023 as Thanksgiving Day in the Town of Foster.

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise DiFranco  
Town Council President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Dillon  
Town Clerk