

The April 11, 2024 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**  
**Cheryl Hawes**  
**David Paolino**  
**Heidi Rogers, Vice President, excused**  
**Chris Stone, excused**

Also present:  
Kelli Russ, Finance Director  
Julia Chretien, Assistant Solicitor  
Grant McGregor, Planner

- I.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Denise L. DiFranco called the meeting to order.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Denise L. DiFranco announced that Chris Stone and Heidi Rogers are excused. Denise L. DiFranco said that Heidi Rogers had asked Ms. DiFranco to announce that the CDBG RTDI grant application has been approved for \$10,288.55 to support the installation of new energy efficient windows at the Town Hall building.
- III.

EXECUTIVE  
OPEN SESSION

Lt. Stephanie Eva received a notice letter and requested to be heard in open session.  
David Paolino moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 for a work session regarding Personnel according to RIGL 42-46-5-(A)<sub>1</sub>  
No discussion.  
Motion passed 3-0.  
David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Lt. Stephanie Eva submitted a letter indicating that due to a high-risk pregnancy she requests accommodation in accordance with the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. Denise L. DiFranco said she would like it placed on the record that Lt. Eva did receive a letter stating that this would be on Executive Session tonight.  
Paul Saccoccia, the RI State Director for the IBPO and an attorney represented Lt. Eva. He stated that the she is currently working in a light duty capacity, and is doing a multitude of tasks the captain and the chief cannot fulfill. She is able to respond by radio of telephone and does this on a daily basis. Light duty fulfills her health needs and the town’s needs. They are asking that her light duty status continue.  
Cheryl Hawes said she would like to continue to accommodate her. She sees both sides clearly but she does not know how they can afford it financially. Mr. Saccoccia said the town has to find the money or they will have to take legal action. It would be an unfair labor practice and a violation of] the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. There will be legal action and it will cost more money.  
Cheryl Hawes said that when she read through all the paperwork, one of the newer laws said if it’s a hardship to the municipality, then they might not be able to fulfill this request. That’s where we are stuck. If we take the money and continue to pay her then we are taking the money away from being able to make sure there are two officers on at a time, which will leave an officer by himself. That would mean we are not doing our due diligence. If we don’t give it to Stephanie, I don’t feel like we are doing it either.  
Mr. Saccoccia said taking Stephanie off doesn’t mean you are going to be able to get them working any more than they are working now. They are working 16-hour days now. It doesn’t make sense to take a supervisor out of that mix. The courts will determine if it’s an undue hardship after the fact, so you will not be saving there. Either way there will be litigation.  
David Paolino said he was a union member for 45 years and a contract negotiator, two elected terms to the IBEW. He understands the law and his loyalty has been to the union. His problem is that he has a responsibility to the

town; he took an oath. We are over budget. We have a responsibility by law to the town. To say we are going to wind up in court anyway doesn't make it any easier. If you want to settle this mutually, can you give the council an idea of what you are talking about. Mr. Saccoccia said he only found out about it yesterday or the day before and that maybe he could if he had more time.

Denise L. DiFranco asked that since we are down an officer, in her eyes when the lieutenant is on light duty, we are down two officers. Her concern is the safety of the officers, she has heard about that continually over the years. The budget is a big part of this. Historically we haven't had a lieutenant assisting in the building but out on the road. What has changed?

Captain Domingos said a lot of Lt. Eva's job is Admin, taking calls, and making decisions that he can't do all the time. He can't perform both jobs for six months. Denise L. DiFranco asked how it is different now. Captain Domingos said he had a sergeant; they don't have a sergeant anymore. If she goes out, he would be the only supervisor other than the chief.

Kelli Russ said that by Charter she cannot allow them to overspend the budget in any department. She noted that no benefitted leave is being used. The budget has to be done tonight.

Cheryl Hawes asked if they could cover the cost till June 30. Denise L. DiFranco said her concern was if they were setting a precedent because they are in negotiations. Mr. Saccoccia said they would be willing to sign an MOU that it is not setting a precedent. Denise L. DiFranco said Lt. Eva could continue on light duty until June 30.

Kelli Russ said then you are going to have to make up that amount, and she doesn't have a way. She gave that to the police and the chief to help find a way and they couldn't. David Paolino moved to allow Lt. Eva to continue working on light duty up to but no later than June 30, 2024, contingent upon the execution of an MOU agreeable to both parties. Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Discussion: David Paolino asked Capt. Domingos if he feels comfortable that they can come up with a way. Chief Lindell said she understands that \$30,000 has to come out somewhere, but she doesn't think it should come out on the back of a human being. She thinks they should find it elsewhere and split the difference with another department that refuses to make cuts.

Kelli Russ said that, basically, you are currently budgeted for nine people and because you have an open shift she calculated the number of hours that are available for a second person for safety on every shift. We had to adjust for Stephanie being out an additional 500 hours on Family Medical Leave. We cannot balance this budget, and every other department has been cut, so the budget with the largest increase was yours, so she cut the \$30,000+ from there. How you balance the budget is up to you. She cannot take it from another department; there is no other department to cut. Chief Lindell said if it was decided that we wouldn't have a problem with the Lt. staying here for the remainder, why are we going back and forth? Ms. Russ said she is performing a non-budgeted position and has accrued time she is not using. Her actual position is on the road. She has all these hours available to her that have to be budgeted for this year and next year because that's when she will actually be using them. We don't have a balanced budget. Ms. Russ said she asked for assistance and didn't receive much. By law, she has to have a balanced budget she has to advertise within the next ten days. Chief Lindell asked what that meant for them. Ms. Russ said that your budget is going to have to be adopted by the bottom line, and they are

going to have to live within it. If you follow all of the policies you created that you asked Ms. Russ to implement in your budget, you don't have enough money. Chief Lindell said they did make cuts. If by chance she has to opportunity to get another officer, could they hire them? Ms. Russ said they will try to figure it out. She suggested that they add a timeline to the MOU.

David Paolino withdrew his motion.

David Paolino moved to allow Lt. Eva to continue working on light duty up to but no later than June 30, 2024, contingent upon the execution of an MOU agreeable to both parties by April 25. Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

#### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2024

2. Approval of General Warrants FY2024 #18 \$81,107.99

David Paolino moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

#### **V. PUBLIC HEARING Homestead Exemption – 1<sup>st</sup> Hearing**

##### **Homestead Exemption**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the general or special laws to the contrary, the town council may annually fix the amount of homestead exemptions with respect to assessed value from taxation on taxable real property used for owner occupied residential purposes in the town and to grant homestead exemptions to such residential real estate in an amount not to exceed forty percent (40%) of the assessed value. Any such exemption shall only apply to residential property improved with a dwelling house. Any such dwelling house shall consist of no more than four (4) dwelling units.

Denise L. DiFranco announced that this was advertised in the *Valley Breeze Observer* for three weeks.

Kelli Russ explained that we never needed one in Foster because most people live in their homes. We are currently in a revaluation and she reached out to other towns because she realized with the current treaty we have with Providence Water they are going to benefit substantially from this revaluation because they're assessed values will stay the same and everybody else's will increase between 35-40 percent. Therefore, the tax rate will go down. Providence Water is the largest taxpayer in the town and that would unfairly benefit them at the expense of our residents. So by creating a Homestead Exemption which Providence Water would not be eligible for, and all our residential property would, all the people who live in their homes would not have to bear the increase. This will give the council the purview to determine what the exemption will be annually. There is legislation in process which could limit it to 20 percent, which would prevent it from going above 20 percent if it passes. Any Homestead Exemption would benefit the taxpayer who lives here.

Denise L. DiFranco opened the public hearing.

Jonathan Hayter, 71 Howard Hill Road, asked if people would have to apply for it, or would it be automatically given. Kelli Russ said they would have to apply for it because she would not know who rents or who doesn't. She

said she would rather spend \$1000 on postage to make sure everyone received notice then to only advertise it. We'll go the extra mile. Mr. Hayter said that in some states they have to have livestock. Ms. Russ said no, all you have to do is own and live in the property.

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

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

Kelli Russ added that anyone who is on a tax freeze would not qualify, but anyone on the tax credit would.

Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing.

**Zoning Board Appointment**

Cheryl Hawes moved to move Item 5 under New Business, Zoning Board Alternate Appointment to this position on the agenda.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Cheryl Hawes moved to approve Grant McGregor's recommendation to approve Edward Lawson as an alternate to the Zoning Board for a term expiring December 2024. David Paolino seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Lawson said he lives on Burgess Road and is looking forward to serving the town.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

**Amusements and  
Manufactured Homes and  
Zoning – 1<sup>st</sup> Hearing**

Grant McGregor said this was advertised for three weeks.

**Amusements and Manufactured homes and Zoning**

**1. Sec. 6-51. - Required.**

Recommendation to require an event license for events having an actual or reasonably anticipated assembly of one hundred (100) or more people. Event licenses are currently only required for recreational events or amusements where a fee is charged.

Mr. McGregor said that if you don't have that many people attending you would not need a license.

**2. Sec. 6-52 - Relief from zoning board of review required prior to acceptance of application.**

Recommendation to remove the requirement for relief from the zoning board of review for an event license. The zoning board of review is responsible for applications for relief from the zoning ordinances for long term uses.

Recommendation to retitle the section "Application Procedure" and to explain such procedure.

Mr. McGregor said this is to replace the language regarding zoning board approval with a procedure, and it would then get to the town council level if the recreation director felt it was appropriate. He reviewed what would be on the application and what would be required.

**3. Sec. 6-54 – Notice to owners of meeting**

Recommendation to require the Town Clerk to provide proof of mailing to property owners within 300 feet of the subject property at a public hearing for a recreational event or amusement. Recommendation to specify a time period for legal advertising. Recommendation to allow a waiver of a hearing to be granted by the Town council for reoccurring events.

Mr. McGregor said he recommended two weeks of legal advertising so they would have to notify the Town Clerk two

weeks in advance. A recurring annual event, the council would have the authority to waive the public hearing.

**4. Sec. 6-55 – Notice to chief of police and building inspector of meeting**

Recommendation to specify that the town clerk shall notify the police chief and the fire chief of the upcoming hearing for an event and to forward such persons the application for comment prior to the hearing. The fire chief of the fire company of which the subject property is under the jurisdiction of shall be notified.

Mr. McGregor said the recommendation is to remove the building official and add the police chief and fire chief for the review of events.

**5. Sec. 6-56 – Fees.**

Recommendation to allow for a waiver of license fee for nonprofit town groups holding special events for Town-wide participation.

Mr. McGregor said each would be \$25 plus the cost of advertising. Fee could be waived.

**6. Sec. 6-57. - Review of application; approval or approval with conditions.**

Recommendation to remove the building official from review of events. Recommendation to specify that the town council shall only review event license applications during the public hearing described in Sec. 6-54, after the application has been reviewed by the police chief and jurisdictional fire chief.

Mr. McGregor explained the conditions such as hours of operation and duration. All requirements in 6-53 would be met.

**7. Sec. 16-31 – Definitions.**

Recommendation to define “mobile home”, “house trailer”, and “manufactured home”. Definition for manufactured home is that which is defined in RISBC-2. Definition for “mobile home” is the same as the definition for “manufactured home” with the condition that a “mobile home” was built prior to 1976. Definition for “house trailer” is a temporary structure with or without a permanent foundation that is used as a temporary residence following an unexpected event.

Mr. McGregor said these are to provide clarification of definitions.

**8. Sec. 16-57 – Procedure for applying for installation permit.**

Recommendation to specify that the procedure for application for installation permit is the same as that which is found in RISBC-2.

Mr. McGregor said this is to bring them into compliance.

**9. Sec. 16-58 – Standards to govern issuance of installation permit.**

Recommendation to specify that installation permits shall only be issued if the standards found in RISBC-2 are met.

Mr. McGregor said this is to bring them into compliance.

**10. Sec. 16-59 – Hearing on issuance of installation permit; issuance or denial of permit.**

Recommendation to remove this section. There is no requirement for a hearing for an installation permit in RISBC-2. Mr. McGregor said this is to remove the hearing requirement.

**11. Sec. 16-60 – Temporary permits.**

Recommendation to specify that a temporary structure may be issued by the building official as described in RISBC-1. Mr. McGregor said this is to remove the hearing requirement. RISBC1 has the requirements.

**12. Sec. 38-2 – Definitions.**

Recommendation to define “mobile home”, “house trailer”, and “manufactured home”. Definition for manufactured home is that which is defined in RISBC-2. Definition for “mobile home” is the same as the definition for “manufactured home” with the condition that a “mobile home” was built prior to 1976. Definition for “house trailer” is a temporary structure with or without a permanent foundation that is used as a temporary residence following an unexpected event.

Mr. McGregor said these are the same as 16-31, this is just placing them in the zoning code.

**13. Sec. 38-272 – Yard exceptions.**

Recommendation to replace the word “yard” with the word “setback” to explain that the exceptions listed in this section are related to obstructions within a setback.

Mr. McGregor said this is clarifying terminology.

**14. Sec. 38-280 – House trailers or mobile homes.**

Recommendation to amend terminology to match definitions listed in 38-2 for “manufactured home”, “mobile home”, and “house trailer”. Recommendation to cite exceptions by which a temporary structure may be permitted as a temporary substitute residence following damage, pursuant to RISBC-1.

Mr. McGregor said this would be heard later at zoning.

Denise L. DiFranco asked for comments in favor.

Jonathan Hayter, Howard Hill Road, asked if these special permits are required for football games. Denise L. DiFranco said not at the rec field. Julia Chretien said these may need exemptions.

Adam Dacko asked if that only pertained to town property or did it include gun clubs. Julia Chretien said only if it's only open to the general public. Mr. McGregor said this is not required by State law.

Lynne Rider said she was wondering about Borders Farm.

Mr. McGregor said in general these ordinances aren't always followed. He didn't think about gun clubs, athletic events and other things. Julia Chretien said there's a difference between open to the public and private, limited guest events. Mr. McGregor said he didn't think the zoning board shouldn't be involved with short term events for long term uses.

Jonathan Hayter, Howard Hill Road, said athletic events would be annual. Denise L. DiFranco said she understood that all they had to do was go through Tammy [Steinkamp]. Lynne Rider mentioned Nickle Creek, the Fire Companies have dinners, it's not just going to be members. Julia Chretien said that it would only if they require a fee for entry.

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

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

Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing.

**Tri-Town Titans' Request to  
use the Phillips Field**

Cheryl Hawes moved to move Number Four under New Business, Tri-Town Titans' Request to use the Phillips Field to this point on the agenda. David Paolino seconded.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Nick Driscoll of Tri-Town Titans said the three towns, Scituate, Gloucester and Foster, requested the use of the football field at the Capt. Phillips field from July, August, September and October for practices and as a potential back-up site for the field at Scituate High School.

Denise L. DiFranco said this would be on Sundays. She asked Ms. Chretien about the concession stand. Mr. Driscoll said they would bring their own supplies. Mr. Chretien said as long as they meet all State requirements. Denise L. DiFranco said that we do not have a scoreboard. Mr. Driscoll said they have a portable one, which would meet requirements. David Paolino asked Tammy Steinkamp if they charge a fee and asked the Chief about crowd control. Who would be paying for trash removal, and is there a permit fee?

Tammy Steinkamp, Cucumber Hill Road, said she wasn't sure.

David Paolino asked what age children. Mr. Driscoll said 6 – 14. What's the average attendance? Mr. Driscoll said they come and go. Chief Lindell said she tried to get a light [for the road] but it would only be for school hours. Her suggestion is that they use parking at the school, and it would be up to Tri-Town to hire a detail.

Football Coordinator Jeff Bernier, Highland Terrace, North Scituate, said the practices would be limited to 20 or 30.

David Paolino asked about trash removal. Kelli Russ noted the tipping fee issue; we can't support tons of extra refuse. Our tipping fees when we're over the top are something like \$100 a ton. There's a huge difference because the few who are using it now and having a concession. We only have 3 receptacles.

Ms. Chretien said they could approve the practices and consider the rest later. Grant McGregor said we are in a "Safe Streets for All" program with RIPTA. He mentioned to them that it would be good to have some kind of improvements to make crossing from the school to the rec field so he will have updates to that moving forward. The majority of the use would be for practices but there would be field maintenance [to consider] too.

David Paolino moved to grant the Titans the ability to use the field as proposed for practices subject to a use agreement. Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco asked the Mr. Driscoll and Mr. Bernier if that was satisfactory. They agreed it was.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

**Animals – 2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing**

**Animals**

Denise L. DiFranco said this has been advertised in the *Observer Valley Breeze*. Mr. McGregor said everything under Chapter 8-1 through 8-18 is exactly what is written in the DEM livestock and welfare regulations. His understanding is that even those under right-to-farm have to follow DEM regulations. These could just be put on the website or included in our code of ordinances.

Denise L. DiFranco opened the public hearing. She noted that this is a second public hearing so the council will vote on it.

Chief Lindell said wild animal calls are [handled by] DEM. Animal abuse is ASPCA. Denise L. DiFranco said this is livestock. Chief Lindell said those are domesticated but would still be referred to ASPCA.

Grant McGregor said that what he can tell them is that **Sec. 8-18 Enforcement** comes directly from the RI Code of Regulations. What it says is that for livestock welfare, any employee of the Department of Environmental Management, Division of Agriculture, and DEM Division of Law Enforcement is empowered and authorized to enforce any of the provisions in the livestock welfare rules and regulations. That says to him that anyone from DEM is responsible for enforcing the regulations. How they become aware of violations, he doesn't know but DEM has some role in enforcement.

Chief Lindell said in all her years of doing this she has never seen anyone from DEM get involved in an animal abuse situation. David Paolino asked if it matters what the flow process is if we are just adopting the regulations?

Mr. McGregor said nothing is changing. The regulations are in place right now. It's just making people aware they exist. It's handled the way it's handled.

Lynne Rider explained a recent case with a group of animals. She is friendly with the rescuers, and it was DEM who came in. In fact, they keep checking. Maybe because it's livestock and not dogs and cats.

Eli Berkowitz, Cucumber Hill Road, said he was concerned about these regulations because of his commercial egg operation. That to him it is a DEM Dept. of Agriculture concern.

**1. Sec. 8-1. – Livestock welfare – Livestock defined.**

Recommendation to add the definition of "livestock" to match RIGL 4-26-3(6) and to specify the types of animals covered under this article.

**2. Sec. 8-2. – Livestock welfare – Adequate living conditions.**

Recommendation to specify the standard for adequate living conditions for livestock. The definition for "adequate living conditions" matches RIGL 4-1-1(5).

**3. Sec. 8-3. - General Considerations for the Care and Welfare of Livestock - Definitions.**

Recommendation to add definitions to define terms related to the general considerations for the care and welfare of livestock. The definitions match 250-RICR-40-05-5.6(A).

**Sec. 8-4 - General requirements for the care and welfare of all types of livestock.**

Recommendation to add specifications of the general requirements for the care and welfare of all types of livestock in addition to requirements for specific types of livestock. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.7.

**5. Sec. 8-5 - Specific requirements for the care and welfare of ambulatory disabled, non-ambulatory disabled or distressed livestock.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of Ambulatory disabled, non-ambulatory



disabled or distressed livestock. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(A).

**6. Sec. 8-6 - Specific requirements for the care and welfare of bovine-veal.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of bovine-veal. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(B).

**7. Sec. 8-7. – Specific requirements for the care and welfare of bovine-dairy.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of bovine-dairy. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(C).

**8. Sec. 8-8 - Specific requirements for the care and welfare of bovine-beef.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of bovine-beef. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(D).

**9. Sec. 8-9 - Specific requirements for the care and welfare of porcine-swine.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of porcine-swine. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(E).

**10. Sec. 8-10 - Specific requirements for the care and welfare of poultry-layers.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of poultry-layers. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(F).

**11. Sec. 8-11 - Specific requirements for the care and welfare of poultry-broilers.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of poultry-broilers. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(G).

**12. Sec. 8-12 – Specific requirements for the care and welfare of poultry breeders.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of poultry breeders. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(H).

**13. Sec. 8-13 - Specific requirements for the care and welfare of ovine.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of ovine. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(I).

**14. Sec. 8-14 – Specific requirements for the care and welfare of caprine.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of caprine. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(J).

**15. Sec. 8-15 - Specific requirements for the care and welfare of camelid.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of camelid. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(K).

**16. Sec. 8-16 - Specific requirements for the care and welfare of equine.**

Recommendation to add specific requirements for the care and welfare of equine. The same requirements are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.8(L).

**17. Sec. 8-17 – Violations; Penalties.**

Recommendation to add penalties for violation of the conditions of Article I of Chapter 8 and the regulations of 250-RICR-40-05-5. The same violations and penalties are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.9.

**18. Sec. 8-18 – Enforcement.**

Recommendation to add specific enforcement measures and authorizations. The same measures and authorizations are found in 250-RICR-40-05-5.10.

**19. Sec. 12-137 – Definitions**

Recommendation to add a definition for “temporary mass gathering permit” as defined in RIGL 5-11.1-3(13).

Mr. McGregor said there is one other **Section: 12-137** definition under the **Businesses** chapter. “Any person selling or offering for sale any goods, wares, or merchandise whatsoever including any food or beverage on any public street, highway, or public right-of-way in the town from a stationary location where the point of purchase is located on personal private property.” The last sentence “where the point of purchase is located on personal private property” is not found in the State’s definition for a hawker and neither is the word “whatsoever.” The proposal is to remove it. The definition for peddler “Any person selling or operating for sale any goods, wares, or merchandise whatsoever except food from a vehicle, cart, or any other conveyance which is not stationary. The words “whatsoever except food” are not written in the RIGL definition of peddler; rather the words subject to RIGL Sec. 5-11-1.1c which is related to Mobile Food Establishments that is written in there. His understanding is the reason it is in there is because a Mobile Food Establishment needs to have a motor and a peddler could have a pushcart where they can sell food but they wouldn’t be a mobile food establishment because the pushcart doesn’t have a motor. Mr. McGregor proposes that we follow the State’s definitions, and as well, the one for “temporary mass gathering” as defined in this section but the State has a definition for it so this is just to be in compliant with the State definitions.

Denise L. DiFranco asked three times if anyone to speak in favor of these ordinances.

Denise L. DiFranco asked three times if anyone would like to speak against these ordinances.

Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing.

David Paolino moved to accept the ordinance changes as proposed. Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

**Resolution Supporting  
Extending the Transition to  
Cage Free Chickens**  
Moved here

David Paolino moved to move Item 8 under New Business - Resolution Supporting Extending the Transition to Cage Free Chickens to this position on the agenda. Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Cheryl Hawes read the Resolution (see - A).  
Cheryl Hawes moved to approve the resolution as presented. David Paolino seconded.  
Discussion: None.  
Motion passed 3 - 0.  
David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

#### **Business – 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing**

Denise L. DiFranco opened the public hearing.  
**Sec. 12-162 – License issuance; fees; limitations**  
Recommendation to eliminate the requirement for a public hearing for a Mass Gathering Permit.  
Recommendation to increase the fee for a Hawker's license to \$100.00; Peddler's license to \$100.00; and Mass Gathering permit to \$100.00. Recommendation to remove minimum fees for Hawker; Peddler; Mobile food establishment licenses, Event permit; and Mass Gathering permit.

Julia Chretien noted the changes requested by the Council. Notification by mail instead of a public hearing. Proof of mail by Affidavit of Notice. Fee changes were proposed by the Planning board.  
Tammy Steinkamp, Cucumber Hill Road, asked if the food trucks are considered a mass gathering? Ms. Chretien said it would be an event.  
Denise L. DiFranco said this is the second hearing.  
Denise L. DiFranco asked three times if anyone would like to speak in favor of the ordinance.  
Denise L. DiFranco asked three times if anyone would like to speak against the ordinance.  
Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing.  
David Paolino moved to approve **Sec. 12-162 – License issuance; fees; limitations** as proposed. Cheryl Hawes seconded.  
Motion passed 3 - 0.  
Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

#### **Animals – 2nd Hearing**

##### **Animals Ch.8 and Zoning Ch. 38**

Grant McGregor explained that this was continued from the last meeting.  
Denise L. DiFranco said it has been advertised. This is a second hearing so they may vote on it.

##### **1. Sec. 8-217 – Application for initial issuance.**

Recommendation to specify that an application for an initial kennel license requires a development plan review application, or waiver request, or minor land development application be submitted to the Planning Board.

Mr. McGregor said these are regarding kennel licenses. We have Class A and Class B kennel licenses. Class A is for a breeding kennel; Class B is for boarding. Under RIGL the Town Clerk of any town is responsible for issuing breeding kennel licenses, so currently what Foster has on the books is that there is a public hearing for breeding and boarding kennels, but because a kennel is a business, the hearing would take place as a development plan review in front of the planning board if a structure was not to be expanded or if a minor land development infrastructure for keeping the dogs was to be expanded. What is being proposed here is for the Town Clerk to notify the Planner of an application for a breeding kennel and the Town Planner would schedule a development plan review or a minor land development, and following a planning board approval. the license would be issued.

**2. Sec. 8-218 – Contents of application.**

Recommendation to amend contents of application to meet RIGL 4-13-10. Recommendation to add procedure for issuance of license and penalties for noncompliance to meet RIGL 4-13-10.

Mr. McGregor said the same procedure applies. License fee of \$25. For the annual renewal it would just have to be determined that there it was not a public nuisance Penalty of \$5 per day for anyone illegally operating a kennel.

**3. Sec. 8-219 – Notice of hearing.**

Recommendation to remove Sec. 8-219. A public hearing is held by the Planning Board at the development plan review stage and the hearing requirements are specified in Sec. 38-394.

Mr. McGregor said there is no hearing requirement under RIGL 4-13-10 Breeding Kennels or 4-19-6 Boarding Kennels. So if there was to be a hearing it would be at the planning board stage.

**4. Sec. 8-220 – Hearing.**

Recommendation to remove Sec. 8-220. A public hearing is held by the Planning Board at the development plan review stage and the hearing requirements are specified in Sec. 38-394. Mr. McGregor said the same thing applies as Sec. 8-219.

**5. Sec. 8-224 – Revocation.**

Recommendation to amend Sec. 8-224 to give Class A kennel license revocation powers to the town clerk pursuant to RIGL 4-13-10 and Class B kennel license revocation powers to the town council pursuant to RIGL 4-19-6(b). Recommendation to eliminate the requirement for a public hearing regarding a kennel license revocation.

Mr. McGregor said there is no requirement to have a public hearing to revoke. Notification must be by mail.

**6. Sec. 38-36 – Enforcement of chapter.**

Proposes amendments to specify that zoning certificates are issued upon written request pursuant to RIGL 45-24-54.

Mr. McGregor said all that is being proposed is copying the last two sentences of RIGL 45-24-54, which is about the administration and enforcement of the zoning ordinance. This is an administration procedure.

**7. Sec. 38-285 – Development standards for drive-through uses.**

Recommendation to permit drive-through windows on building façades that faces a public street. Drive-through windows are currently permitted but not on the side of a building facing public street.

Mr. McGregor said the planning board thinks a drive-through should be able to face a public street. Subsection A covers stacking requirements.

**8. Sec. 38-290 – Regulations pertaining to animals.**

Recommendation to require a waste management and removal plan for kennels in addition to the existing requirement for agricultural uses exceeding the provisions of Sec. 38-191 (Agricultural Uses – 2.A.).

Mr. McGregor said currently in the code no special use permit shall be granted unless a waste management removal plan is first filed with the planning board. This is when there are more than 35 on five acres and for kennels. David Paolino asked if he has 35 animals and has restrictions

imposed, but if I have 5,000 chickens, I have none? The way it is written, we have no jurisdiction unless we adopt under the second provision specific rules to protect the town and the residents if somebody has 500 cows, 5,000 chickens—it just doesn't make any sense. Mr. McGregor said if somebody has 35 animals, the council does have the right. David Paolino said let's say I have 5,000 chickens, I'm a commercial business, I don't maintain my manure correctly and my neighbors are complaining. Who has the power and jurisdiction to handle the dispute? Mr. McGregor said all he knows is that it isn't the town.

**9. Sec. 38-301 – Construction Timetable.**

Recommendation to require a waste management and removal plan for kennels in addition to the existing requirement for agricultural uses exceeding the provisions of Sec. 38-191 (Agricultural Uses – 2.A.).

Mr. McGregor said they need to set a timeframe for construction. We are saying here that if somebody needs an extension, it can be reasonably granted.

Denise L. DiFranco asked three times if anyone would like to speak on behalf of these ordinances.

Adam Dacko, 119-A Central Pike, asked how many animals constitute a kennel. Mr. McGregor said a Boarding Kennel would be keeping more than four animals that are not owned by you. A Breeding Kennel is optional to get a license. Let's say you have a lot of dogs and it would be more expensive to license each dog individually, you could go for a Breeding Kennel license and that might save you money. Ms. Chretien said DEM also governs who has a license to breed.

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

Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing.

David Paolino asked if it was appropriate to kick back to planning Sec. 38-290 Regulations pertaining to animals. Should we consider adopting something now for large farms pertaining to waste management? We can adopt a safety standard. We don't want to have 500 cows with no waste management system in place. Mr. McGregor said to bring that back to the planning board when the council could make a rule as to local health and safety regulations but the municipality would have no way to enforce it. Ms. Chretien said if you have commercial, you would have zero authority. Mr. McGregor said it could be enforced if it wasn't commercial, and it would be a good practice to have it in place.

David Paolino moved to approve as presented

Sec. 8-217 Application for initial issuance,

Sec. 8-218 Contents of the application,

Sec. 8-219 Notice of Hearing,

Sec. 8-220 Hearing,

Sec. 8-224 Revocation,

Sec. 38-36 Enforcement of chapter,

Sec. 38-285 Development standards for drive-through uses,

Sec. 38-290 Regulations pertaining to animals, and

Sec. 38-301 Construction timetable.

Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Cheryl Hawes withdrew her second.

Julia Chretien added "and reserve the ordinance numbers for any ordinances recommended to be removed."

Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

**Organization – 1<sup>st</sup> hearing**

**Sec. 24-35 – Organization**

Recommendation to allow for one Planning Board meeting per month, opposed to two. Recommendation to edit language related to the ability of the planning board to adopt procedural rules deemed necessary to the discharge of its duties pursuant to match RIGL 45-22-5(a).

Mr. McGregor said this came up at a previous meeting but was not placed on the agenda. It was in regard to the recording secretary. There is nothing in the Charter that says how many meetings there needs to be.

Denise L. DiFranco said this has been advertised.

Mr. McGregor said they removed the request for a recording secretary. He amended the language to read the way RIGL 45-22-5(a) which is “the planning board shall organize by electing a chair person, a vice chair person, a secretary. The planning board may (rather than shall) adopt any procedural rules deemed necessary for the discharge of its duties.” The planning board could say we want a recording secretary and at this point we don’t have the financial means to do that. He proposes to say the planning board can meet at least once per month so they can meet more but that are trying to go back to meeting once per month.

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

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

Denise L. DiFranco closed the public hearing.

Cheryl Hawes moved to accept Sec. 24-35 Organization as presented. David Paolino seconded.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**  
Police Building Update

Denise L. DiFranco said they have not had a meeting but discussions have been held with Rowse. We did apply for the grant from Sen. Reed.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**  
Reconsideration of December  
14<sup>th</sup> 2023 Minutes

Julia Chretien said [this item] cannot happen tonight because Mr. Paolino was not there on December 14 so you don’t have a quorum of those present.

FY 25 Budget Review

Kelli Russ reviewed the budget. After the Public Hearing, they had another meeting. At that point, we were \$67,000 over budget. We went back to Public Works and cut from there: overtime, sand, and salt for snow removal, some small changes, which brought us halfway there. Other changes came from overtime in the police budget. This is the highest capital, \$1.7 million, since she’s been here. The renovations for the Town Hall she hoped they could bring down.

Denise L. DiFranco asked about the school. Ms. Russ said they are struggling to get it down to 4%. She will be advertising 4%.

FY 25 Budget Adoption

David Paolino moved to accept this budget as adjusted. Cheryl Hawes seconded.

~~Tri Town Titan Request to use  
the Phillips Field~~

Cheryl Hawes moved to accept this budget in the amount of \$18,446,071.00. David Paolino seconded.  
Discussion: the council thanked Kelli Russ. Denise L. DiFranco thanked all the Department Heads.

~~Zoning Board Alternate  
Appointment (expires 12/24)~~

Motion passed 3 - 0.  
David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L.  
DiFranco, aye.

Pole Petition Mill Road Pole  
29 & 30

David Paolino moved to grant permission to add poles 29  
and 30 on Mill Road as requested. Cheryl Hawes  
seconded.  
Discussion: None.  
Motion passed 3 - 0.  
David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L.  
DiFranco, aye.

Litter Free Campaign  
Resolution 2024-02

Denise L. DiFranco said the governor has made a stand  
on litter. Cheryl Hawes read the resolution (see Exhibit  
B).

~~Resolution Supporting  
Extending the Transition to  
Cage Free Chickens 2024-02~~

Cheryl Hawes moved, David Paolino seconded, to pass,  
adopt, and approve the resolution.  
Motion passed 3 - 0.  
David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L.  
DiFranco, aye.

Charter Amendments

Denise L. DiFranco said the Planning Board had  
submitted some suggestions for Charter Amendments. It  
has not been five years so we do not need to have a  
Charter Review Committee. Mrs. Dillon has also included  
Charter changes that were submitted in the past. Grant  
McGregor said they needed to adhere to State Law. In the  
Planning Official section there's a house resolution that  
the house judicial committee recommended passage of  
two days ago saying that there is a shortage of Planners  
and they want universities to try to produce more of  
them. The planner is probably the most controversial  
position, so the proposal is to have a contract for three  
years. The very last paragraph said currently that any  
decision of the planning official is appealable to the  
zoning board. That is something the State changed. Any  
decision of the planner and enforcement of the  
subdivision provision is appealable to the zoning board.  
Any decision of the planning official approving or denying  
projects is appealable to the zoning board. He thinks it  
will be a good idea to have a contract for the planner so he  
copied the DPW section of the Charter because the DPW  
director has a contract. The planning board section is  
coming from State law, which says it acts in an advisory  
capacity for the council for all matters concerned with the  
physical growth and development of the town and  
affecting the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of  
the people. Mr. McGregor said that is mostly true as the  
planning board has the authority to enact subdivision  
regulations so what we would insert is "except for  
otherwise proscribed by the laws of the State and  
ordinances of the town" and the planning board shall  
administer the subdivision ordinances of the town as  
required by the ordinance. The planning board shall have  
such powers and duties as prescribed by the laws of the  
state. The state also gives the planning board the  
authority to review zoning applications where there is a  
subdivision included, and the zoning board section of the  
Charter there will no longer be a planning board of  
appeals for the zoning enforcement officer. We would  
have to strike the words "planning and review" and use  
board of appeals.  
Denise L. DiFranco said Charter changes have to go to a  
vote. If that is the State saying these are the changes that  
have to be. If it is voted down, then what happens?  
Julia Chretien said if they vote it down it wouldn't  
necessarily matter. It still has to be voted on but she will  
double check.

David Paolino asked if it is an absolute requirement that it be on the ballot if the State is going to override it anyway? Denise L. DiFranco said let them challenge it on the ballot.

Mr. McGregor said the State isn't overriding local authority, they are just redirecting authority from one board to another, what's being amended in the Charter isn't objectionable.

Denise L. DiFranco there are other ones that have been proposed in the past such as the Land Trust conveyance. Because there are only three of us [tonight] she asked that they consider continuing this to another meeting.

#### Recycling/Tipping Fees

Denise L. DiFranco said they have been discussing how to move forward with this. People are putting far more trash out than they should, and it is being picked up when it shouldn't be. Mr. Rogers has put on the permitting fee that a dumpster is required for all renovation. Construction refuse will not be collected. Mr. Rogers suggested a check off box on the permit to ensure that is seen. Ms. DiFranco said she spoke to someone in East Providence. They have a list of what they use. Their bulky pickup is once a week, you call DPW. You can put one thing out per week per household, and DPW can pick up to 100 pieces per week and they will pick up on Friday. They do charge for mattresses and box springs and they pick up twice per month. Appliances are \$25 and one per month. No construction materials. David Paolino said he doesn't understand how we would hold them accountable.

#### Request to Reconsider the following Ordinances: *Manufactured homes and trailers*

Denise L. DiFranco said Grant McGregor had asked for some clarification regarding mobile homes. She said we can look at it tonight and determine whether we want to have another public hearing regarding it. The definitions were confusing. Grant went back and tweaked it and this is new and improved.

##### ***Manufactured homes and trailers***

##### **1. Sec. 16-81. - Unlicensed trailers prohibited.**

Recommendation to state that no person shall maintain or use any trailer or manufactured home as a dwelling unit without a permit without exceptions. Recommendation to specify that the permitting process for manufactured homes is found in SBC-2 (One and Two Family Residential Code). Mr. McGregor said we have allowed manufactured homes in a number of locations, and they have to have a foundation, so he thinks the precedent that we have set is a good one, and we just need to clarify that "Replacement and temporary only" should be removed because that is no longer the case.

##### **Sec. 16-82. - Procedure for applying for initial trailer license.**

Recommendation to amend the permitting process for manufactured homes to match SBC-2 for replacement and temporary manufactured homes.

Mr. McGregor said this is just clarification of language.

##### **Sec. 16-83. - Standards to govern issuance of initial trailer license.**

Recommendation to amend the standards to govern issuance of license for manufactured homes to match SBC-2 for replacement and temporary manufactured homes.

Mr. McGregor said this is just clarification of language.

##### **Sec. 16-85 - Previously located trailers.**

Recommendation to state that all replacement manufactured homes must comply with the provisions of SBC-2.



Mr. McGregor said that again this is just clarifying language. Remove the word “trailers” and replace it with “mobile homes.”

David Paolino moved to send these ordinances back to a public hearing to review the changes. Cheryl Hawes seconded.

Discussion: Lynne Rider said she has looked up the definitions. It seems like manufactured and modular are made in a factory and brought to the site, but they don’t travel there by themselves. Could that be written out? Is it on a chassis? Even though you set it down and put a fence around so it looks like a foundation there, but if push comes to shove, you can remove that fence and take it with you. Cheryl Hawes said but that’s what is prohibited, right? Grant McGregor said yes. He said he could clarify this quickly, so yes, they are trailered to the site but you need to have a foundation for a manufactured home, which encompasses modular. If you have a temporary it could still be on wheels, and it would have to be removed after one year. The only way you could have it without a foundation is if it is grandfathered in. Ms. Rider said another clarification, if that mobile home or trailer disintegrate into the ground and you have to replace it, would it have to meet the new requirements? Denise L. DiFranco said yes, you would have to put in a foundation.

Motion passed 3 - 0.

David Paolino, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; and Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Cheryl Hawes moved, David Paolino seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 for a work session regarding Collective Bargaining or Litigation according to RIGL 42-46-5-(A), 2 PC 2022-05617 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 3-0.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting ended 10:53 p.m.

Submitted by

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk

## **TOWN OF FOSTER RHODE ISLAND**

### **RESOLUTION 2024-02**

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE FOSTER TOWN COUNCIL SUPPORTING EXTENDING THE TRANSITION TO CAGE FREE CHICKENS**

That the Town of Foster ("Town") adopts a Resolution as follows:

**WHEREAS, the Town of Foster's Town Council pursuant to the Town of Foster's Charter, is vested with the authority of administering the affairs of the Town of Foster for the benefit of its residents and businesses; and**

**WHEREAS, Henry and Miriam Berkowitz pursued the American dream arriving in New York City as immigrants from Europe after World War II in 1949; and**

**WHEREAS, Henry Berkowitz believed in working hard to support his family while doing so with the smell of green grass an abundance of fresh air and open fields; and**

**WHEREAS, the Berkowitz family found a home in the Town of Foster where they opened the Berkowitz Egg Farm in August 1955; and**

**WHEREAS, Eli and Ralph Berkowitz now call the farm Little Rhody Foods (LRF, Inc) which has been a corporate resident of Foster located at 67 Cucumber Hill Road, Foster; and**

**WHEREAS, as a result of their hard work, strong ambition and impeccable customer service, the company has grown to be the largest employer in Foster and the biggest distributor of eggs in Southern New England; and**

**WHEREAS, Little Rhody Foods, Inc. partners with charitable organizations for a variety of causes, most recently collaborating with the Joe Andruzzi Foundation to raise money from sales of the large sized Little Rhody Natural Eggs to help cancer patients and their families with nonmedical expenses; and**

**WHEREAS, Little Rhody Foods, Inc. distributes local products including but not limited to**

Little Rhody Natural Eggs and Little Rhody Egg Farm Eggs  
Del's Lemonade – 16 oz glass, 53 oz refrigerated, 12 oz sparkling  
Autocrat Coffee Syrups – including Coffee, Tea and Iced Cappuccino  
Twin Oaks – Pasta and Marinara sauce  
Wright's Farm Restaurant – Pasta Sauce, Frozen Chicken Pies and Fudge  
Sauce on the Side - Rhode Island Hot and Mild Sauce  
Gio's Trio Sauce from Bella's Restaurant

D. E. Vine Salad Dressings from Rachael's Table  
New York System Weiner Sauce  
Shri Bark Granola  
Downeast Coffee  
Iggy's – Clam Cake, Chowder, Fish Batter, Chopped Clams, etc  
Pat's Italian Sauce – Tomato Basil  
Marchetti's Italian American House Dressing  
Drum Rock – Calm Cake, Buttermilk Pancake, Spicy Fry Mix  
Federal Hill Foods – Pasta and Marinara  
Granny Squibb/Sally's Ice Tea Products, etc.  
Troinos Stuffed Cherry Peppers and Pepper Salad  
Chepachet Farms – Maple Syrup; and

**WHEREAS, Little Rhody Foods uses other local small businesses to pack and manufacture its products; and**

**WHEREAS, Little Rhody Foods supplied eggs and other foods during the COVID Pandemic at a low cost throughout the State of Rhode Island;**

**WHEREAS, prior to the pandemic in 2018, Rhode Island passed a law outlawing banning battery cages for egg-laying hens in July 2026; and**

**WHEREAS, the conversion to cage free chickens by egg farms is taking much longer than**

WHEREAS, with unprecedented inflation, Rhode Islanders cannot afford the higher prices of cage free eggs to feed their families; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2150 and House Bill 7946 have been introduced to extend the date for egg-laying hens to be cage free for commercial egg production until 2034; and

WHEREAS, the American Veterinarian Medical Association found that barn-raised, cage free chickens suffered from poorer air quality and had more injuries and more disease than caged hens;

WHEREAS, there are many benefits to caging egg-laying hens with the newly discovered Avian Flu outbreak since the cages keep the hens separate from their waste and it's easier to keep them from contracting diseases and viruses; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Foster Town Council to declare its support of Senate Bill 2150 and House Bill 7946 for the protection of our small businesses as well as consumers who benefit from their food production and distribution throughout the State of Rhode Island,

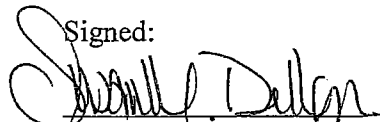
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Foster Town Council affirms its support for extending the date for the requirement of egg-laying hens to be cage free for commercial egg production until 2034,

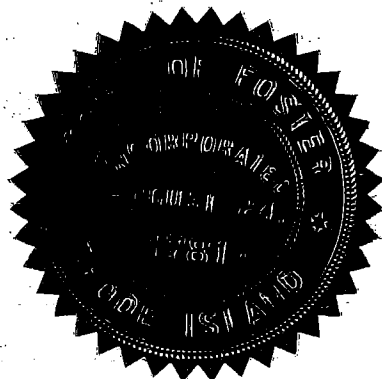
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Foster Town Council is directing a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the following for their similar support and due consideration;  
The Hon. K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House, State of Rhode Island  
The Hon. Dominick Ruggerio, President of the Senate, State of Rhode Island  
The Hon. Daniel McKee, Governor, State of Rhode Island  
The Hon. State Representative Joseph Solomon, House Corporations Committee  
The Hon. State Senator Alana DiMario, Senate Committee on Environment & Agriculture  
The Hon. State Senator Gordon Rogers  
The Hon. State Representative Michael Chippendale

Approved by vote of the Foster Town Council on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.

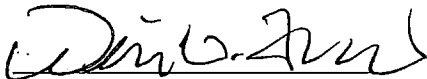
WHERETO the following bear witness:

Signed:

  
Susan M. Dillon  
Town Clerk



Foster Town Council

  
Denise L. DiFranco  
President

# TOWN OF FOSTER RHODE ISLAND

## RESOLUTION OF THE FOSTER TOWN COUNCIL

*No. 2024-01*

### In Support of the Keep Rhody Litter Free Campaign

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island is known for its natural beauty, including its pristine beaches, vibrant cities, and rural towns. Specifically, the Town of Foster] enjoys its farms, scenic roads and hiking trails; and

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Islanders in all thirty-nine cities and towns should be able to live in clean, litter-free and healthy communities; and

**WHEREAS**, as municipal officials, we are the stewards of such; and

**WHEREAS**, we must make a commitment to investing in environmental protection and educating residents on its importance and connection to improving our state's overall health; and

**WHEREAS**, we will work with our state partners to advance these goals, such as hosting community cleanups, passing local litter-related ordinances, or working on shifting community culture around littering.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Foster

- (1) Formally pledges to Keep Rhody Litter Free by supporting Governor Daniel J. McKee's Litter Free Rhode Island campaign; and
- (2) Encourages each of the residents of the Town of Foster to join us in taking this pledge by - visiting [litterfree.ri.gov](http://litterfree.ri.gov); and
- (3) Commits to fulfil our pledge through coordinating various events such as community cleanups.

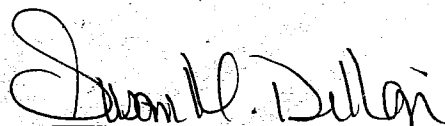
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon passage of this Resolution it be sent to His Excellency, the Honorable Governor of the State of Rhode Island, Daniel J. McKee.

Passed, adopted, and approved this 28 day of February 2024.

ATTEST:



Denise L. DiFranco, Town Council President



Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk

