

Richard N. Foster (1942 – 2006)

Dick Foster passed away on July 11, 2006 in Westborough, Massachusetts after surviving three earlier bouts with cancer. He was born June 11, 1942 as the eleventh generation born in Beverly, Massachusetts. He leaves a wife, two sons and a grandson. Dick graduated from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts and then undertook doctoral work in geology at the University of Idaho where he was an acquaintance of Earl Bennett. He returned to New England where he worked as a geologist with Sasaki Associates, a large landscape design and consulting firm outside of Boston. He left Sasaki Associates in 1979 and went to work with the state as an officer in the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) unit in the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. In that capacity he was appointed State Geologist of Massachusetts in 1992 following the retirement of Joe Sinnott. He was appointed state geologist because no other staff member in the office had a geology background. Dick was the State Geologist for 10 years. Unfortunately, he was less active than he would have liked because of his heavy responsibilities as a MEPA officer. However, he helped school kids around the nation by sending them samples of the Roxbury Conglomerate and he visited with students in local classrooms. Dick retired from state government in 2002 and relinquished his State Geologist position. Dick later joined the consulting firm of Epsilon Associates in Maynard, Massachusetts as a senior scientist. Dick was active during his 36 years in his hometown of Westborough serving on the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board in addition to three terms as a Selectman. He was also a skilled carpenter, an avid Red Sox fan, loved to golf and had a special interest in history, especially the Civil War. He was a pleasant person to be around with a warm personality, wealth of knowledge, clear thinking style, sense of humor and concern for others. He was 64.

-Steve Mabee