

East Providence Conservation Commission

February 21, 2012
East Providence City Hall - Room 306
7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Lorraine Nik (Chair), John Rose (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes, John Burrige, Keith Gonsalves, and James Boyd (Secretary)

Public present: Marie Esten, East Providence resident, indicated that she was interested in joining the Conservation Commission. The Commission noted that there are presently two vacancies and encouraged Marie to seek appointment to the Commission. Commission Chair L. Nik advised Marie to contact her City Council representative and discuss her possible appointment to the Commission.

Call to Order

Chair Nik called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Review of Minutes

After reviewing the January 17, 2012 meeting minutes the Commission voted to approve them on a motion to accept by K. Gonsalves and seconded by J. Burrige.

Planning Department Update

Boyden Boulevard Pump Station - Wayne reported that work continues on the sewage pump station upgrade at the end of the boulevard. It will have a direct connection down hill through the Boyden Heights Conservation Area to the newly installed sewage force main being installed along the East Bay Bike Path between the pump station at Watchemocket Cove and the East Providence wastewater treatment facility in Riverside. The pump station connection work is being completed along a city easement, essentially an extension of Boyden Boulevard to the bike path. Trees and all other vegetation has been cleared along a 20-foot wide swath. The Commission discussed concerns about soil and slope stabilization post-construction. The Commission may have an opportunity to communicate with DPW for final site stabilization.

Ten Mile River Fish Ladder update - Work has begun at the Omega Pond fish ladder located at the confluence of the Ten Mile River and the Seekonk River. Cofferdam installation at the base of the dam will begin after June 1st following the end of the anadromous fish migration construction restriction time window. The Turner Reservoir fish ladder is close to completion with only a connection between the denile ladder and the dam remaining. With the completion of the Omega Dam fish ladder expected this fall, anadromous fish will then have an unimpeded stretch of river access between the Seekonk River and upper reaches of the Ten Mile River to the small dam at the Pawtucket Country Club.

Correspondence

RI Association of Conservation Commissions reminder of the March 2012 Land & Water Summit presentation of East Providence Conservation Commission activities. Wayne has prepared a brief 10 minute slide show of our recent activities and will present it at the Summit.

The Eastern RI Conservation District sent a letter informing the Commission of a Goose Abatement workshop to be held this Spring

Continued Business

2012 Land & Water Summit - see correspondence above.

Hunt's Mill Terrace Garden project. The Commission discussed next steps for continued improvements at the Hunt's Mill House terrace garden project to include stone steps for wet area crossings along the loop trail. Wayne indicated that there may be some limited funding available for further plantings along the loop trail to supplement the plantings the Commission installed this past fall.

New Business

East Providence Budget Commission legislation - Wayne provided Commission members with a copy and explanation of the budget Commission's enabling legislation and potential impacts to the Conservation Commission. As discussed, the Conservation Commission has only a \$25 dollar allocation within the current City budget and has a strictly advisory function to the Planning Department and City Council. Accordingly, the Budget Commission will have very little if any impact on the Conservation Commission's present functions and operations.

Seekonk Land Trust - Jim advised the Commission that he had recently spoken with a member of the Seekonk Land Trust and discussed a trail improvement project at Burr Pond across the street from the Grist Mill Tavern. It may be a project for collaboration between the two municipalities for conservation projects of mutual interest. Jim will keep the Commission informed as further details are developed.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 7:30 pm in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary