

East Providence Conservation Commission

May 15, 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: None

Call to Order

Chair Nik called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Review of Minutes

The Commission voted to approve the meeting minutes of April 17, 2012, as read, on a motion to accept by K. Gonsalves and seconded by J. Burrige.

Public Comment - None

Planning Department Update

Ten Mile River Fish Ladder update - K. Gonsalves reported that the Ten Mile River Watershed Council testified in support of H7988 to name the Omega Pond fish ladder after Paul Bettencourt at a House Environment Committee. Paul has been a long-time tireless champion of restoring the herring run at the Omega Pond dam. The Committee voted to approve the bill and forward onto the full House for a vote. (The bill was passed by the House on May 17 and referred to the Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs Committee for consideration at a June 6 hearing).

DEM Open Space Grants - W. Barnes reported that a total of \$150K is needed for the Silver Spring playground project and the City was awarded a DEM grant of \$75K. The City is seeking matching funds through the Champlin Foundation for this project and the Tranquility Place project.

Hunt's Mill Terrace Garden project - W. Barnes reported that there is no funding available to buy more landscape materials. An alternative funding source is needed to continue the project. The Commission discussed possibility of planting more native shrubs and trees later this year.

Correspondence - None

Continued Business

Boyden Heights Conservation Area - W. Barnes reported that the East Bay Bike Path reopened May 16 following completion of the sewer line project. The Commission discussed maintenance work for the boardwalk to sand and seal the railings. A work day was scheduled for Saturday morning, June 9 from 9:00am to Noon.

National Trails Day - The Commission has no plans for June 2, but the Ten Mile River Watershed Council will be at Hunt's Mill.

New Business

Boyden Heights Conservation Area - W. Barnes indicated that he has a tentative date to make a presentation on the Commission projects at Boyden Heights to the Bristol Conservation Commission on June 4. (On follow-up, no response was received from the Bristol Commission and we did not present).

RI Watershed-Based Plan - J. Boyd provided an update on the DEM-sponsored watershed planning meeting for the Barrington-Palmer-Warren River Watershed, which he attended on May 10 at Barrington Town Hall. A portion of the Barrington River watershed, which includes the Runnins River, is located in East Providence.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 7:30 pm in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary