

East Providence Conservation Commission

June 19, 2012
East Providence City Hall - Room 306
7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Members present: John Rose (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes, Marie Esten, Keith Gonsalves, and James Boyd (Secretary)

Public present: None

Call to Order - Vice Chair Rose called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Review of Minutes - The Commission voted to approve the meeting minutes of May 15, 2012, as read, on a motion to accept by K. Gonsalves and seconded by M. Esten.

Public Comment - None

Planning Department Update

Tropical Storm Irene FEMA process - W. Barnes reported that the City has received final reimbursement from FEMA for storm related expenses due to debris removal, City staff overtime, and storm damage within the City.

Ten Mile River Fish Ladder update - K. Gonsalves reported that the General Assembly passed a resolution to name the Omega Pond fish ladder the “Paul Bettencourt Fish Ladder” in honor of Paul Bettencourt is a fisherman and a long-time activist in restoring the river herring run to the Ten Mile River. The Governor signed the resolution on June 25.

Correspondence - None

Old Business

Boyden Heights Conservation Area - Commission members completed the boardwalk weatherizing project on Saturday morning June 9. The boardwalk top rails were sanded and a sealer was applied to improve longevity of the rails. Commission members discussed the stairway project and determined that an early fall workday can be scheduled to construct a needed stairway. Further discussion and a design will be considered at another meeting.

New Business

Boyden Heights Conservation Area - The Commission discussed potential improvements to address the open slope of the sewer line connection from Boyden Heights Boulevard down to the bike path. The Commission may plant native shrubs to supplement the newly planted sewer line project shrubs along the base of the slope. The primary purpose of new shrubs would be to better direct trail users and help keep people off the slope to prevent erosion. Signage at the trailhead is needed to identify the conservation area as well as a map of the trail network. A kiosk is needed

at the trailhead for the sign and map. W. Barnes indicated that he would seek a DEM trails grant to help fund the project. The Commission will further discuss the matter at another meeting. The Commission also agreed to hold the next meeting at the Boyden Heights Conservation Area to clean up the stone benches next to the parking lot.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2012 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Boyden Heights Conservation Area parking lot.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary