

East Providence Conservation Commission

February 15, 2011
East Providence City Hall - Room 306
7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Lorraine Nik (Chair), Wayne Barnes, John Burridge, Frank Dias, Keith Gonsalves, and James Boyd (Secretary).

Call to Order

Chair L. Nik called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Review of Minutes

The Commission voted to review the January 18 meeting minutes at the March 15 meeting.

Election of Officers

Election of Commission officers was postponed from the January meeting due to the absence of some members. On a motion by K. Gonsalves and seconded by J. Boyd, the Commission members in attendance voted to maintain the current slate of officers as follows: Lorraine Nik as Chair, John Rose as Vice Chair, and James Boyd as Secretary pending assent by J. Rose to accept his nomination and election.

Planning Department Update

Ten Mile River Hydroelectric feasibility study - A draft feasibility study report has been completed by the consultant and is now available for review at the following web site link: <http://www.essexpartnership.com/preliminary-findings/ten-mile-river-hydropower-feasibility-study/>

Forbes Street landfill closure & solar energy proposal - No updates on the current proposal other than a planned community meeting scheduled for March 14 at the Riverside Middle School. See the following link: [Forbes Street Project Neighborhood Meeting](#)

Seaconke Trails Committee - No new information beyond what was reported at the January meeting.

FEMA Providence County Coastal Flood Study - The Planning Department has been informed that FEMA is undertaking a new flood study to update the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

DEM public notice on draft RIPDES permits - Draft discharge permits have been issued for the Exxon East Providence facility for stormwater associated with industrial activity.

Correspondence

America the Beautiful Tree 2011 Grants Program - Requires one and one-half times local match to obtain grant. Given budget constraints it's unlikely City could participate in program.

RI Tree Council - Renewal of membership notice, but Commission has no budget to participate.

Sen. Whitehouse letter - Letter of thanks from the Senator regarding the Blackstone Valley National Park.

Blackstone Valley National Heritage Commission - Annual report

Northern RI Conservation District - Annual report

Continued Business

George Kent Memorial Bench - The Commission discussed further that the bench should be installed along the new segment of the Ten Mile River Greenway Bike path. Keith has videoed some potential locations for the Commission to review, but we'll need to determine land owner and seek appropriate approvals. Need to select the type of bench and a method to solicit donations. The Commission discussed the potential to use a local bank to receive contributions.

2011 Commission Work Plan - The Commission discussed other projects for the year including completing the stairs for the Boyden Heights boardwalk, constructing a kiosk with map at the Boyden Heights trail entrance along the East Bay Bike Path, and an April 16 Earth Day cleanup for the coastal shoreline area along the Boyden Heights Conservation Area. Keith will check on obtaining a DEM cleanup grant.

New Business - none

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM on a motion by J. Burrige and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 7:30 pm in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary