

East Providence Conservation Commission

April 19, 2011
East Providence City Hall - Room 306
7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

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

Call to Order

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

Review of Minutes

The Commission voted to approve the January 18 meeting minutes and the March 15 meeting minutes, as amended, on a motion by J. Burrige seconded by W. Barnes.

Chair Nik thanked the Commission members who participated in the Boyden Heights Conservation Area Earth Day cleanup on April 16th.

Planning Department Update

Forbes Street landfill closure & solar energy proposal - As reported last month, a public meeting was held on March 14 at the Riverside Middle School followed by a press conference on the closure and the proposed solar energy project.

Ten Mile River Fish Ladder update - The Hunts Mill fish ladder is about 80% completed, while the Turner Reservoir fish ladder has been delayed by persistent seepage and dewatering issues for the coffer dam. Project completion is now expected in December of 2011.

Seaconke Trails Committee - The committee is seeking assistance from a local Boy Scout Troop to improve trails in the Arcade Avenue parcel recently acquired by the Town of Seekonk, MA. National Trails Day activities are planned for June 4th.

Boyden Height pump station - Wayne reported that the City Zoning Board granted variances on February 23 for the proposed pump station building along Boyden Boulevard. Commission members discussed assisting the City Public Works Department in making recommendations for contract language for proposed work in clearing and landscaping for the sewer line connection through the conservation area to the East Bay Bike Path. Commissioners were especially concerned about possible impacts to the recent improvements (*i.e.*, bench and landscaping) completed by the Commission.

Correspondence - None

Continued Business

Earth Day Clean-up review - The Commission sponsored a successful cleanup along the shoreline of the Boyden Heights Conservation Area on April 16. Ten bags of trash and eight tires were removed from the shoreline and tidal waters.

George Kent Memorial Bench - Wayne reported that the Town of Bristol has a memorial bench program with an example of a bench that could be suitable for our project. Evidently, the vendor for that program (M.E. O'Brien) is the same vendor that the City of Eats Providence uses for city projects. The Commission discussed a possible model (Dumor Bench #58) that would be suitable for the proposed memorial bench along the Ten Mile River bike path. More details will be provided at a future meeting.

Boyden Heights Boardwalk Staircase - Keith suggested that he could bring construction materials to the Public Building Division for fabrication of the stairs for future installation.

New Business.

CRMC public hearing - The CRMC approved the sewer line project (file # 2010-12-022) along the East Bay bike Path from Watchemoket Cove to the EP wastewater treatment facility at the April 12 public hearing. Commissioners discussed contacting Public Works to be involved in recommendations for contract language to protect recent improvement projects completed at Boyden Heights Conservation Area. Commissioners voted to discuss this matter further at the next meeting on a motion by J. Rose and seconded by J. Boyd.

National Trails Day - Wayne noted that local events are planned for June 4th and will be discussed at the May meeting.

Pond View Recycling facility - Jim noted that Senate bill 0184, which would limit Pond View and other such facilities to processing no more than 150 tons per day, was passed by the Senate on April 13. Note: The Senate bill was transferred to the House Environment and natural Resources Committee and awaits action.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by J. Burrige.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 7:30 pm in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary