

East Providence Conservation Commission

May 31, 2011

East Providence City Hall – Room 306

7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Lorraine Nik (Chair), John Rose (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes, John Burridge, and Frank Dias

Call to Order

Chair Nik called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm

Review of Minutes

The Commission voted to approve the April 2011 minutes as amended on motion by John Burridge and seconded by Frank Dias.

Planning Department Update

Forbes Street Landfill Closure Project and Solar Energy Proposal – Legislation pending on a couple of items relating to solar energy and net metering. The projects have been put on hold pending outcome of legislation. There is no time frame for the passage of this legislation.

Frank Dias asked if the fill-capping project was completed. Wayne Barnes was not sure if it was completed or not.

Fish Ladder Progress – Hunts Mill fish ladder is 80% complete. The Turner Reservoir project still has problems relating to water seepage into the work area. Omega Dam project has had a number of issues which have been resolved and is now in the permitting process. There is no schedule of events at this time.

Seaconke Trail Committee – There is not much going on right now.

Bike Path Sewer Main Public Hearing - Public hearing regarding the Facilities Plan Update is scheduled for June 1st at 7 pm, City Hall, Room 306.

Earth Day Clean-Up Coverage – The Boyden Heights Earth Day Clean-Up was a great success. There are pictures in The Post. Many items of debris, such as tires, were removed.

Correspondences

Public Notice – Permit application of Chevron Environmental Management Company/Chevron Land Development Company - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent out a public notice concerning the permitting of the Chevron property located on Veterans Memorial Parkway regarding the remediation and subsequent wetlands restoration project. The permit for this project expires June 9, 2011.

Hydro-Electric Power at Hunts Mill – Frank mentioned an article in the Providence Business News regarding hydroelectric power at the Hunts Mill Dam.

Continued Business

National Trails Day - Seaconke Trails Committee is holding a walk at the YMCA in Seekonk, MA on Saturday June 4th starting at 9 am. The walk will start at the Turner Reservoir and end with refreshments at the YMCA at noon. The East Providence Conservation Commission is a co-sponsor. The Conservation Commission will set up a tent and a table with poster boards of East Providence trails projects.

Proposed George Kent Memorial Bench – The Commission viewed a catalog from M.E. O’Brian. There are two benches that meet the criteria of the Commission. The Courtyard and the Dumar Bench #58. The Courtyard, which can be seen at the Vintner Avenue playground, cost \$777.00 and has a plaque. The Dumar Bench #58 was much more money and did not have a plaque. The Commission favored the Courtyard bench. Wayne thinks that \$1200 would cover the cost of the bench, the engraving of the plaque and installation. John Rose questioned whether the plaque was vandal proof. Wayne will look into what we would need to do to purchase the bench. Some funding options might include grant money and/or soliciting donations. Frank Dias suggested that we send a letter to the Fire Chief for feedback. Wayne said he would write and send the letter.

Boyden Heights Boardwalk Stairway Status – Wayne brought materials such as toolboxes, balusters etc. back to City Hall. Tony Vieira thinks they have enough material to complete the stairway at the boardwalk. The City plans to do this during the summer months.

New Business

Alex Duarte Letter - Lorraine brought up the concern that the Commission does not send out letters thanking people who help with Conservation Commission projects, such as with Alex Duarte. Wayne said that he will look into it.

Summer Schedule of Meetings – The Commission voted to cancel the August meeting on a motion made by John Rose and seconded by Frank Dias. We will have a meeting in June and July as usual.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm on a motion by John Rose and seconded by John Burrige.

The next scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be in East Providence City Hall on Tuesday June 21, 2011 at 7:30 pm in room A (first floor).

Respectfully submitted by Lorraine Nik, Chair