

East Providence Conservation Commission

October 18, 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).

Public present: Patrick Hanner (City Planner)

Call to Order

Chair Nik called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Review of Minutes

After reviewing the September 20th meeting minutes the Commission voted to approve them on a motion to accept by K. Gonsalves and seconded by W. Barnes. J. Boyd abstained from voting as he did not attend the September meeting.

Planning Department Update

Forbes Street landfill closure & solar energy proposal - Wayne reported that he'll have more information at the next meeting.

Ten Mile River Fish Ladder update - The Hunt's Mill fish ladder is now completed, while the Turner Reservoir ladder is still undergoing construction, but is expected to be finished by the end of the year. The Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a contract for the Omega pond fish ladder with construction expected to begin in Spring of 2012.

Seaconke Trails Committee - Wayne and Keith met with YMCA representative on the trails committee and it was reported that archaeological findings have slowed progress on new trail construction until a Phase I survey can be completed.

Boyden Height pump station - Wayne presented a detailed plan for the sewer line connection between the existing pump station on Boyden Blvd. and the planned sewer line along the bike path. It appears that the sewer line connection work will avoid disrupting the trail entrance and the bench installed by the Commission. The project is expected to be completed by August 2013.

City Hazard Mitigation Plan - Wayne reported FEMA approved the plan on May 10, 2011.

Correspondence - None

Continued Business - None

New Business

Hunt's Mill - P. Hanner advised the Commission that the City had \$2300 remaining of a \$3000 grant from the Blackstone Valley Heritage Commission for trail improvement work at the Hunt's Mill property. The City had previously spent \$700 on the Groundworks Providence crew earlier

in the year for trail development at the site. After discussion, the Commission agreed to take on a landscape project to control erosion and enhance the trail system with native trees, shrubs and plants. P. Hanner will be checking with the Blackstone Valley Heritage Commission to ensure that the remaining grant money can be allocated for landscape materials. The Commission also agreed to meet onsite on October 29th to review the newly constructed trails and gather ideas for discussion at the next Commission meeting.

Boyden Heights - Commission members reported that during a site visit on October 8th it was observed that two large trees had fallen across the trails as a result of tropical storm Irene.

Hydropower Project - Wayne reported that the City Planning Department has filed a Preliminary Permit application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the proposed Hunt's Mill hydroelectric generation facility pursuant to U.S.C. § 18 CFR 4.30.

Bat Houses - John suggested that the Commission install some bat houses at Boyden Heights next spring to provide shelter for these insect-loving mammals. The Commission agreed to discuss further at another meeting and develop a plan.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by F. Dias.

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

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary