

East Providence Conservation Commission

February 16, 2010 Meeting
East Providence City Hall, Room 308
7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

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

Call to Order

Chair L. Nik called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

Four students from the Lincoln School (Marissa Warner, Amy Esposito, Sarah Disandro, and Stacy Sahagian) attended the meeting to fulfill a requirement for their environmental class.

Review of Minutes

The Commission reviewed and approved the corrected January 19 meeting minutes on a motion by F. Dias and seconded by W. Barnes.

Planning Department Update

Cuddigan property - Wayne updated the Commission that the family is not interested in donating, but rather selling a parcel of land to the City located along the Wampanoag Trail between the Mobile gas station and a medical office. Apparently due to parcel size and lack of resources there is no City interest in buying the parcel.

Hunts Mill master plan trail update - Trail work was scheduled to begin this season, but the Army Corps of Engineers contractor is planning to use a portion of the site as a construction staging area as part of the fish ladder installation project. Accordingly, the trail development work will likely be delayed until later in the season.

Pomham Rocks Lighthouse viewing area - A member of the Pomham Lighthouse restoration group lives off Whipple Avenue with property extending downhill to the East Bay bike path. The member apparently intends to install a bench and interpretive sign on his property adjoining the bike path to promote the Lighthouse. Commission members discussed the proposal and generally supported the idea, but cautioned that the property owner should consult with the RIDOT, which owns and manages the bike path.

Seekonk Trails Committee - Wayne has regularly been attending meetings of this committee, as they have been discussing connections with area trails including the Turner Reservoir loop. They are currently working on a handicapped accessible trail behind the Newman YMCA that could eventually be linked with the nearby East Providence trails.

Correspondence

No correspondence

Continued Business

East Providence Hazard Mitigation Plan - Wayne had provided a file copy for Commission members to review. It will be incorporated as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan update.

George Kent memorial bench - Commission members discussed installing a memorial bench along the Ten Mile bike path to honor George, a long-time Commission member. It would likely be located at the path's beginning behind the ball field and school off Ferris Avenue.

DEM Recreational Trail Grant Program - Wayne notified the Commission that he was working on an application for \$1500 to DEM to buy two signs and brochures for the Boyden Heights Conservation Area. He indicated that he was already investigating price quotes for the signs.

Boyden Heights boardwalk reconstruction - Wayne updated the Commission on status of potential availability of City workers to assist in the reconstruction of the boardwalk this spring. Materials are currently in storage at a City garage. It was suggested that the City carpenter be requested to develop a plan that includes steps necessary for demolition and rebuilding of the boardwalk. Commission members discussed a likely March weekend for demolition of the existing dilapidated boardwalk and will schedule a date at the next meeting. The Lincoln School meeting attendees indicated that they have to participate in a community service project before the end of May to meet school requirements. It was suggested that they consider assisting with the boardwalk project. The Commission stated that it would be in contact with the students following the next meeting to schedule work dates.

New Business

National Trails Day 2010 - Wayne noted that there was interest to hold an event at Hunt's Mill with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the recently complete boardwalk along the east side of the Ten Mile River just below the Turner Reservoir dam.

Boyden Heights Conservation Area brochure - Commissioners discussed the potential content and layout for an updated brochure that would be available as hard copies and as a PDF file on the City website.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by F. Dias.

The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16 at 7:30 PM, East Providence City Hall, Room A.

Respectfully submitted,
James Boyd, Secretary