

East Providence Conservation Commission

July 20, 2010 Meeting
East Providence City Hall, Room A
7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Members present: John Rose (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes, Burridge, Frank Dias, Keith Gonsalves, and James Boyd (Secretary)

Call to Order

Vice Chair J. Rose called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Review of Minutes

The Commission reviewed and approved with typographical correction the June 15 meeting minutes on a motion to accept by W. Barnes and seconded by J. Burridge.

Planning Department Update

Hunts Mill project update - Trail system improvements are scheduled to begin July 23 by Groundwork Providence for the inner trail loop at the park.

Accino property - Wampanoag Trail - Wayne reported that a letter had been sent to the attorney representing the property owner indicating that the City was interested in accepting the parcel donation for land conservation purposes. A Class III survey and title clearance is required before the City can move forward on the donation. Wayne will keep the Commission informed of any new developments in this matter.

Correspondence

West Greenwich Conservation Commission - Wayne displayed a brochure as an example of what our Commission might think about for the future. Good details on the Commission's work and its mission on behalf of the community.

Email from Lorraine Nik - The Commission Chair forwarded an email to Wayne regarding the potential Eagle Scout project for the Boyden Heights bridge (stream crossing) reconstruction.

Continued Business

Boyden Heights boardwalk reconstruction - Wayne indicated that the balusters and remaining 2x4 and 2x6 lumber had been delivered to complete the project. This recent material purchase was made possible by the DEM Trail grant that Wayne had secured earlier this summer. Remaining funds from this grant (about \$500) will likely be used for a trail map kiosk or bench.

Boyden Boulevard sewer pump station project - Wayne advised the Commission that the City had sent a letter dated June 16 to DEM regarding a Land & Water Conservation Funds Conversion request. The City acquired the Boyden Heights land in 1970 with federal funding, and approval is required for conversion of any portion of this land to uses other than public recreational use. The City is seeking the conversion to facilitate an upgrade to the existing sewer pump station on Boyden Boulevard and the construction of a force main to the East Bay Bike Path. No new information is yet available. Evidently, the City-preferred sewer line route

continues to be the bike path right-of-way, due to lower cost, with a connection to the pump station at Boyden Blvd.

Hunt's Mill and Turner Reservoir Fish Ladders - The Army Corps of Engineers has awarded the construction bid to J. Rocchio Co. and construction is expected to begin later this summer.

New Business

Rails to Trails Conservancy - Wayne indicated that a regional gathering is scheduled for August 14 to solicit interest in organizing a southern New England group. Wayne will report on the event at a later meeting.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by F. Dias.

The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17 at 6:00 pm at the Boyden Heights Conservation Area parking lot. The Commission will review progress on the boardwalk reconstruction and discuss future projects onsite.

Respectfully submitted,
James Boyd, Secretary