

## **East Providence Conservation Commission**

June 15, 2010 Meeting  
East Providence City Hall, Room 308  
7:30 PM

### Meeting Minutes

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

### Call to Order

Chair L. Nik called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

### **Review of Minutes**

The Commission reviewed and approved the May 18 meeting minutes on a motion to accept by K. Gonsalves and seconded by J. Rose.

### **Planning Department Update**

Boyden Boulevard sewer pump station project - Wayne advised the Commission in a memorandum that 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.

Hunts Mill project update - Some trail system improvements and secondary growth clearing is scheduled for this summer to be completed by Groundwork Providence.

### **Correspondence**

Letter concerning potential land donation - Attorney Martin Sleprow submitted a letter dated May 13 to City Planning Director Jeanne Boyle regarding a potential land donation along the Runnins River and Wampanoag Trail (see new business following).

### **Continued Business**

Boyden Heights boardwalk reconstruction - Wayne provided the Commission with a sketch of the proposed railing, railing cap, and baluster design to complete the final details for the project. Ed Catelli and crew have been steadily working on the rebuilding of the boardwalk and plan to complete the project once the baluster and rail materials are bought and delivered. It will be up to the Commission at a later date to sand, then water-seal the top cap to provide some measure of protection from the weather. Wayne has secured additional funding from the DEM Trail Grant, which will cover the cost of the needed materials.

Scout Project - Lorraine indicated that she had been in contact with a local scout (Alex Duarte) concerning a potential project at Boyden Heights Conservation Area. Alex is possibly interested in a bridge reconstruction project along the trail downhill from the parking area. The bridge is in need of repair and possibly needs to be relocated slightly farther down stream due to the erosion along the stream bank. Lorraine

## **New Business**

Potential land donation - As noted in correspondence above, Attorney Martin Slepko submitted a letter dated May 13 to City Planning Director Jeanne Boyle indicating that his client, John Accino, was interested in donating a 8.92 acre parcel he owns along Wampanoag Trail. The Commission has since learned that the parcel apparently is largely composed of forested wetland with access off Mohawk Drive, but with very limited potential for future development. More importantly, however, this parcel abuts a large tract of undisturbed land owned by SFX Broadcasting that includes both sides of the Runnins River. The correspondence requests whether the Conservation Commission is interested in the property. After discussion the Commission agreed that it would benefit open space conservation in the City and further secure land in the Runnins River corridor, which provides important wildlife habitat. On a motion made by J. Boyd, seconded by J. Rose, and amended by L. Nik. The Commission unanimously approved the following language:

"The Conservation Commission recommends to the City Planning Department to accept the land donation offer of the 8.92 acre parcel off Wampanoag Trail described as Map 811, Block 7, Parcel 10 on behalf of the Conservation Commission for the purpose of open space conservation."

**(Note: The Commission has since learned that the parcel is actually 5.92 acres, not 8.92 acres as stated in Attorney Slepko's letter.)**

## **Adjournment**

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by F. Dias.

**The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20 at 7:30 PM, East Providence City Hall, Room A.**

Respectfully submitted,  
James Boyd, Secretary