

## East Providence Conservation Commission

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

### Meeting Minutes

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

### **Call to Order**

Vice Chair J. Rose called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM. Chair L. Nik arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order.

**Public in Attendance:** Peter Hanney (East Providence Land Conservation Trust President); and Boyden Heights Conservation Area neighbors, Monica Reed and Tom Rinaldi; and City Engineer Erik Skadberg.

### **Review of Minutes**

The Commission reviewed and approved the February 16 meeting minutes on a motion by K. Gonsalves and seconded by J. Boyd.

The Commission voted on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by K. Gonsalves to move New Business items to the front of the agenda as a courtesy to the public in attendance and the City Engineer and to dispense with their items of interest first.

### **New Business**

East Providence Land Conservation Trust (EPLCT) - Peter Hanney introduced himself to the Commission and indicated that he had recently been elected as the Trust's new president. He wanted to attend the meeting to establish a relationship with the Commission and work together on projects of mutual interest. The EPLCT is the land owner and steward for the Bridgham Farm conservation area located along the West side of Turner Reservoir and encompasses land from Miller Avenue near the reservoir dam north to Newman Avenue. The Commission thanked Peter for attending and stated that it would provide assistance to the EPLCT for conservation issues.

Boyden Heights proposed sewer pumping station - City Engineer, Erik Skadberg, described in detail for the Commission two proposed alternative sewer line projects to connect the existing Watchemocket Cove pump station to the municipal sewage treatment facility in Riverside. One option would be to run a new combination forced main and gravity main along Veteran's Parkway to Pawtucket Avenue. This option, however, would be disruptive to vehicular traffic and cost approximately \$14M. The other option would be to run a new force main along the existing East Bay Bike Path. This option would be less expensive, about \$10M, and construction would be done during late fall through winter months to minimize any impact to the public use of the bike path. The Boyden Heights neighbors were concerned about survey markers at the Conservation Area and rumors about a new roadway extension being constructed at the bottom of Boyden Boulevard. Mr. Skadberg explained that a land survey was completed and markers placed to identify the City right of way. Should the bike path option be chosen, then a sewer line connection would be constructed along this right of way between the bike path and the existing

pump station on Boyden Boulevard adjacent to the conservation area parking lot. This will also serve as a construction access point for the sewer line. The existing pump station will be enlarged regardless of which ever option is selected. The Commission was concerned about potential impact to the recently improved trail access, split rail fencing and bench adjacent to the bike path. Mr. Skadberg indicated that the contractor would be responsible for replacing the fencing or bench should they temporarily need to be moved to accommodate sewer line construction. The Commission also suggested a gate or barrier at the end of Boyden Boulevard to deter unauthorized vehicles from gaining access onto the conservation area or bike path. The City Engineer stated that he would keep the Commission informed as sewer line options are considered and engineering is completed.

### **Continued Business**

Boyden Heights boardwalk reconstruction - Wayne updated the Commission on status of scheduling construction and timing for availability of City workers to assist in the reconstruction of the boardwalk this spring. He also indicated that he was concerned about public safety and liability issues of the existing deteriorated boardwalk condition. Nearby neighbor Monica Reed expressed concern about the spring and early summer construction that might disturb nesting waterfowl around the boardwalk. Commission members discussed scheduling a workday soon to remove decking and close off the boardwalk to further public use. Additionally, an early spring workday would eliminate any potential adverse disturbance to nesting waterfowl by completing the task before nesting season begins. On a motion by J. Boyd seconded by J. Rose, the Commission voted to meet on Saturday, March 20 at the boardwalk and remove the decking and secure the boardwalk to temporarily exempt public use until it can be rebuilt. (Note: the Commission did accomplish this task on March 20 and loaded all the planks onto a City trailer located along the bike path.) The Commission will discuss next steps at the following meeting.

### **Planning Department Update**

Recycling Division - DEM Earth Day Cleanup Grant - Wayne indicated that the City Recycling Division had applied for the DEM grant for cleaning along the bike path. Accordingly, Wayne did not apply on behalf of the Commission so as to not compete for the same funding sources.

### **Correspondence**

No correspondence

### **Adjournment**

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
James Boyd, Secretary