

East Providence Conservation Commission

May 18, 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

Chair L. Nik called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Review of Minutes

The Commission reviewed and approved the April 20 and April 29 special meeting minutes on a motion to accept by K. Gonsalves and seconded by W. Barnes.

Correspondence

DEM Grant Award - By letter dated April 30, 2010, DEM notified the City that it would receive up to \$1500 for materials, equipment and trail improvements for the Boyden Heights Conservation Area.

Continued Business

Boyden Heights boardwalk reconstruction - Wayne updated the Commission on the status of reconstruction by the City Building Department and displayed some recent photographs he had taken at the site on May 17-18. Ed Catelli and crew had completed all joist replacement and most of the decking to about 50 feet from the farthest end of the boardwalk. The Commission discussed the next steps for installing the balusters, rails and top cap. With the addition of grant money from DEM, there should be sufficient funds to buy the needed materials to complete the project. Wayne would speak with Ed for recommendations for baluster, rail, and top cap installation. The Commission agreed to meet onsite Saturday, May 22 at Noon to view the work completed thus far and evaluate using similar baluster, rail, and top cap as used for the Turner Reservoir boardwalk. Jim would email recent photographs of the Turner Reservoir boardwalk to Commission members for comparison. Ed had indicated that he could schedule a Saturday workday with the Commission to facilitate reconstruction of the boardwalk. After discussion, it was determined that Wayne and Keith would meet with Ed out onsite at the boardwalk to discuss what steps are necessary to complete the project. The Commission also determined that it should meet in special session immediately following the onsite meeting to discuss schedules and work plan and it was decided that April 29 would be most convenient for Commission members.

National Trails Day - The event will be held on June 5th with a trail walk on the Turner Reservoir loop hosted by the Seaconke Trails Committee. The Commission and the Ten Mile River Watershed Group will set up a table and display information at Hunt's Mill.

Planning Department Update

Boyden Boulevard sewer pump station project - Wayne advised the Commission that test borings would be done soon in anticipation of the sewer pipe running along the bike path, as this is realistically the favored option given the lower elevation and lower costs.

Turner Reservoir Walkway - The ribbon cutting ceremony will be Friday, June 11 at the Pleasant Street entrance to the new raised boardwalk along the river.

New Business

Potential Eagle Scout project - Lorraine stated that she had been in contact with a local Scout who was seeking a project of interest to the Commission. One suggestion was a tree inventory of Boyden Heights using GPS equipment so that specimen trees could be noted and mapped. The Commission also discussed the possibility of rebuilding the dilapidated bridge crossing over the stream just down the trail from the parking area. Lorraine was going to discuss further with the Scout.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM on a motion by K. Gonsalves and seconded by J. Rose.

The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15 at 7:30 PM, East Providence City Hall, Room A.

Respectfully submitted,
James Boyd, Secretary