

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2014
City Hall Room A
7:30 PM

Members present: Lorraine Nik (Chair), Wayne Barnes, John Burrridge, Marie Esten, Keith Gonsalves and James Boyd (Secretary)

Members Absent: John Rose (Vice Chair)

Public present: Louis Giraitis attended the meeting as an interested citizen. He asked several questions during Commission discussions, but did not present any issue of particular concern.

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

Review of Minutes - The Commission reviewed and approved the February 25, 2014 meeting minutes as amended with corrections on a motion to approve by K. Gonsalves and seconded by M. Esten.

Planning Department Update

- Omega Pond Fish Ladder - Keith reported that plans are being made for scooping herring for the spring migration run this year. Required permits are being sought.
- Local Development Projects - Wayne briefed the Commission on several ongoing City development proposals including the 308 unit Wampanoag Meadows apartment complex, the Kettle Point mixed use project, the Village on the Waterfront mixed used project and the JJ Gregory parcel project. Both the Kettle Point and Village on the Waterfront projects have been reviewed by the City Waterfront Commission.
- FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) update - Wayne reported that the City will become part of the CRS as of May 1, which will provide a 5% discount on flood insurance premiums for policy holders within East Providence. This is a welcome development and comes after extensive work by the Planning Department in the preparation of the successful FEMA application.

Correspondence - None this past month

Old Business

- Review of Commission appointments - L. Nik reported that she was reappointed and sworn in earlier in the day. J. Burrridge reported that he had emailed his City Council representative seeking reappointment to the Commission, but had not yet received a response. K. Gonsalves reported that he would contact his Council representative to gain reappointment.
- Earth Day Grant Project - The Narragansett Bay Commission is providing a grant through the City DPW for Earth Day activities. Wayne indicated that he would facilitate the purchase of several more native Mountain Laurel shrubs that the Commission will plant along the Hunt's Mill trail loop. The Commission's proposed Earth Day work morning is Saturday, April 26. The Commission will finalize workday plans at the April 15 meeting.

- Stream/Drainage Way Maintenance - In consultation with the DPW, Wayne reported that stormwater runoff drainage maintenance is conducted along the Annawamscutt Creek only down to Glenrose Road. No maintenance is done south of this point. Keith indicated that he would report this information to his Barrington contact who had initially inquired about this matter.

New Business

- RIDEM Open Space Small Grants (Trails) - Commissioners briefly discussed a potential new trail project along the Ten Mile river at Hunt's Mill south of the fish ladder. The Commission will discuss the project in more detail at the next meeting.
- City Comprehensive Plan Update - Wayne reported that a draft update will be prepared by the Planning Department over the next year and the Commission will be invited to review and comment on various draft plan elements.
- City Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - Wayne reported that the update will be drafted concurrently with the Comprehensive Plan and posted for public review on the City's Emergency Management web page.

Commission Member Items

- Keith reported that a new message board has been installed as an Eagle Scout project at the corner of West Street and Newman Avenue at Central Pond.

Adjournment - The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM on a motion by J. Burrige and seconded by M. Esten.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 15 at 7:30 pm** in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary