

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2014

City Hall Room A

7:30 PM

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

Members Absent: John Burrige and John Rose (Vice Chair)

Public present: None

Call to Order - Chair L. Nik called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

Review of Minutes - The Commission reviewed and approved the March 18, 2014 meeting minutes on a motion to approve by K. Gonsalves and seconded by M. Esten.

Planning Department Update

- Commission webpage - Wayne reported that Commission agendas and meeting minutes are now better organized and available along with annual reports on the Commission's web page. See: <http://eastprovidenceri.net/content/662/684/694/1115/default.aspx>.

Correspondence

- Northern RI Conservation District information packet with 2013 annual report and description of district services available to landowners and communities.

Old Business

- Review of Commission appointments - The reappointment for K. Gonsalves is docketed for the May 6 City Council meeting.
- Earth Day Terrace Garden Project - The Commission discussed Earth Day work plans for Saturday morning April 26. Commission members will plant native mountain laurel shrubs along the Hunt's Mill loop trail near the Ten Mile River. Wayne will buy the shrubs from Silver Nursery with a Narragansett Bay Commission grant provided to the City DPW.
- RIDEM Open Space Small Grants (Trails) - Wayne did some further research regarding a potential new trail project along the Ten Mile River at Hunt's Mill south of the fish ladder. It is likely that the trail would need a RIDEM freshwater wetlands permit due to the proposed location of the trail. After further discussion the Commission determined it would not pursue the project due to permitting and other logistics.
- City Comprehensive Plan Update - Wayne reported that a draft 5-year plan update is being prepared by the Planning Department and that four public community review meetings have been scheduled for the month of May at various locations. Wayne will keep the Commission apprised of new information as the plan update continues.

- City Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - Wayne reported that the HMP update will be drafted concurrently with the Comprehensive Plan and posted for public review on the City's Emergency Management web page. A separate public meeting for the HMP will be scheduled prior to the plan being fully drafted.

New Business

- RIDEM Historic Grant - Commissioners discussed possibility of obtaining RIDEM grant for the Boyden Heights Conservation Area to place a kiosk or placard with historic photos next to the bike path. A map of the trail system could accompany the historic photos to guide visitors through the area. Keith volunteered to contact RIDEM and get more information on the grant.
- RIACC - The RI Association for Conservation Commissions has requested Commission representation on the state board. After discussion Commissioners determined that membership on the state board would not further the status or work of the Commission. Wayne occasionally attends the state board meetings to stay updated on activities and inform the Commission.

Commission Member Items

- Jim noted the saltmarsh symposium to be held at Save The Bay on April 16.
- Keith discussed the trails at Boyden Heights and Turner Reservoir with Rupert Friday of the RI Land Trust Council for inclusion with the ExploreRI website. See: <http://exploreri.org>. Keith also noted that a new message board has been installed at the corner of West Street and Newman Avenue at Central Pond.
- Wayne advised Commissioners of: (1) Lions Club clean up of Hunt's Mill on April 26; (2) RIFMA conference on April 24; (3) completion of the Newman YMCA trail; and (4) the commencement of planned improvements this year for the Silver Spring playground and Jones Pond recreational area.

Adjournment - The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 17 at 7:30 pm** in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary