

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 17, 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: None

Call to Order - Chair L. Nik called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Review of Minutes - The Commission reviewed and approved the April 15, 2014 meeting minutes with corrections on a motion to approve as amended by M. Esten and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

Planning Department Update

- City Comprehensive Plan Update - Wayne reported that four separate City Ward meetings were held during May to discuss the City's Comprehensive Plan update being prepared by the Planning department. Commission members were asked to send any thoughts on the plan by email to Wayne.
- Omega Pond Fish Ladder - During June 5 and 6 water was intentionally released from the Turner Reservoir gate house to lower reservoir water levels and facilitate construction of the coffer dam below the Omega Pond dam. The coffer dam is being constructed for the natural gas main relocation to allow for construction of the fish ladder there.
- Grant update - Wayne was still investigating potential trail grants and did not have any new information as of the last meeting.

Correspondence

- Richmond Conservation Commission "Environmental Awareness Day" brochure.
- RI Association of Conservation Commissions membership letter seeking \$100 annual dues from the Commission. (The Commission is unable to contribute as it has no budget.)

Old Business

- Review of Commission appointments - Keith Gonsalves was reappointed for another term at the May 6 City Council meeting. John Burrridge is still seeking assistance from his Council representative for reappointment.
- Earth Day Terrace Garden Project - Mountain Laurel shrubs were planted for Earth Day on Saturday morning April 26 at Hunt's Mill along the loop trail.
- City Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update - Wayne reported that a public meeting to discuss the the HMP update is tentatively being planned in July.

New Business

- Boyden Heights - Wayne and Keith reported that the City Parks Department had recently completed landscaping improvements at the parking lot area. Commissioners discussed a work evening on **July 17 at 5:30 p.m.** meeting in the parking lot to sand and seal the boardwalk rails and check on the stairs constructed last year by the Commission.
- Hunts Mill pocket wetland areas - The Commission discussed the preservation of two pocket wetland areas being mowed by the City in the lawn area closest to Pleasant Street. It was suggested that these two small areas not be cut during the mowing season to allow the wetland grasses to mature. It was recommended that these two areas only be cut once annually during the fall to maintain a wetland meadow and to prevent the establishment of woody vegetation and trees. Wayne would forward the recommendations to the City Parks Department.

Commission Member Items

- Chair Nik brought up a potential rights-of-way encroachment matter on Terrace Avenue.

Adjournment - The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 PM on a motion by K. Gonsalves and seconded by M. Esten.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 19 at 7:30 p.m.** in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

The Commission will not hold a regular meeting in July, rather it will hold a work evening at Boyden Heights starting at 5:30 p.m. on July 17 meeting at the Boyden Heights parking lot.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary