

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2014

City Hall Room A

7:30 PM

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

Members Absent: John Burridge

Public present: None

Call to Order - Chair L. Nik called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and along with Commission members welcomed the return of Vice Chair J. Rose after a lengthy absence for medical reasons.

Review of Minutes - The Commission reviewed and accepted the July 17, 2014 meeting minutes on a motion to approve as drafted by M. Esten and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

Planning Department Update

- 2015 City Comprehensive Plan Update - Wayne reported that the Planning Department is currently drafting a 10-year update to the Comprehensive Plan and that 543 online survey responses were submitted to the Planning Department.
- 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan - Wayne reported that the Department held a public workshop that was sparsely attended and he is presently drafting the HMP update.
- Omega Pond Fish Ladder - Keith reported that vandalism of the construction site occurred recently resulting in the failure of the pumps that kept the coffer dam dry. Construction is now back on track and completion of the fish ladder project is expected in the Spring of 2015.
- Parks/Playground Update - Wayne reported that two active DEM-funded projects were underway for improvements at the Silver Spring and Central Avenue Playgrounds.
- Sabin Point Floating Dock - Wayne reported that City DPW staff had recently completed construction of the new floating dock facility that was funded through a DEM grant.
- Hunt's Mill Hike - Wayne reported that he participated with a Providence County Hikers Group sponsored walk through Hunt's Mill.

Correspondence

- RI Coastal Resources Management Council public notice for the Pomham Rock Lighthouse dock facility.

Old Business

- Boyden Heights boardwalk and trail maintenance - The Commission completed the sanding and sealing of the boardwalk rails and steps as part of a July 17 work evening along with some minor trail maintenance.

- Hunts' Mill lawn pocket wetland areas - Wayne indicated that the DPW Director suggested that the Commission flag the wetland edges in the Spring before mowing season and the DPW will consider modifying its mowing practices.

New Business

- New Preliminary FEMA flood map panels - Wayne reported that FEMA had issued preliminary FIRM panels for the Ten Mile River area of the City along the Seekonk, MA border. Maps were being reviewed by the Planning department for accuracy and feed back to FEMA.
- International Coastal Clean-up - A clean-up along the shores of Bold and Sabin Points is planned and organized through Save The Bay for interested citizens and scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2014.

Commission Member Items

- Chair Nik informed the Commission that she is pursuing and MBA degree part-time and was unsure of her availability and schedule , which may affect her future participation with the Commission.
- Wayne informed the Commission that the City had a FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) score, the first City in the state to accomplish this, as of May 1. The City formally received its award from FEMA at the August 2nd City Council meeting. The CRS award provides a substantial discount on flood insurance premiums for any affected City resident and is made possible thanks to the dedication and persistent good work of Wayne.

Adjournment - The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM on a motion by J. Rose and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 21st at 7:30 p.m.** in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary