

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2014

City Hall Room A

7:30 PM

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

Members absent: None

Public present: None

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

Review of Minutes - The Commission reviewed and accepted the September 16, 2014 meeting minutes on a motion to approve with corrections by M. Esten and seconded by J. Burridge.

Planning Department Update

- Omega Pond Fish Ladder - Keith reported that construction continues with the anchors now installed for the fish ladder footing within the coffer dam. Additionally, the railroad crossing at Bourne Avenue has recently been improved by P&W Railroad.
- Parks/Playground Update - Wayne reported that construction bid packages are expected soon for the Silver Spring playground reconstruction project.
- 2015 City Comprehensive Plan - City Planning Department staff are working on various elements of the Plan with a public meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 20.

Correspondence - None

Old Business - None

New Business

- 2015 City Comprehensive Plan Elements - Wayne reported that the Planning Department is currently seeking stakeholder input on the Natural Resources, Open Space and Sustainability elements of the plan. He also summarized comments submitted by the public as part of an online survey for the comprehensive plan. Wayne indicated that the plan is being reformatted for readability with improved goals, objectives and actions using the Warwick comprehensive plan as a template. Commissioners discussed these elements and were requested by Wayne to submit comments to him by email.

Commission Member Items

- Wayne informed the Commission that the Planning Department was gauging interest in potentially scheduling a Slow Roll bicycle tour of City interest points and promoting local businesses. Similar rides are held in Detroit. See: <http://www.slowroll.bike>. Wayne inquired whether any Commission members had interest in participating.

- Keith reported that he had participated in the Watchemoket Square Day festivities on October 4 with a boat tour up the Seekonk River. Planning Director Jeanne Boyle described the City's efforts and successes along the waterfront.
- Jim informed Commissioners of a presentation at the URI Coastal Institute on October 22 of the CRMC Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model project.
- Chair Nik informed the Commission that she is pursuing an MBA degree and was likely to step down as Chair in 2015.

Adjournment - The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by M. Esten.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 18th at 7:30 p.m.** in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary