

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2015

Boyden Heights Conservation Area

6:00 PM

Members present: Keith Gonsalves (Chair), Wayne Barnes (City Liaison), Marie Esten, Ernie Germani, and James Boyd (Secretary)

Members absent: John Rose (Vice Chair), John Burrridge and Lorraine Nik

Call to Order - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Public present: None

Public Comment: None

Review of Minutes - The June 16, 2015 meeting minutes will be reviewed at the September 15 regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

Planning Department Update - None

Correspondence

- Email was received by the Planning Department from Helen Tjader of the Barrington Land Trust regarding potential trail development along the Annawanscutt Creek in Barrington leading into Riverside Mills in East Providence. Specifically the trail would be located between Forbes Street and Rounds Avenue. The Commission will discuss this matter at its next meeting.

Old Business

- Army Corps of Engineers Fish Ladder Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony - A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on June 19 at the Hunt's Mill property to celebrate the completion of work on the Ten Mile River Ecosystem Restoration Project. City, State and Federal partners were present to recognize the work of the Army Corps in designing and completing construction of three fish ladders along the Ten Mile River at Omega Pond, Hunt's Mill and Turner Reservoir. The project restores historic fish passage from the Seekonk River upstream to the dam at the Pawtucket Country Club.
- Brochure/information development - Commissioners briefly discussed development of an informational brochure for trail systems in the City. Further details will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

New Business

- Upcoming Commission Meeting Schedule - Commissioners agreed to not hold a meeting in August and resume meeting as scheduled on September 15.
- Boyden Heights Conservation Area annual routine maintenance - Commissioners gathered for a brief meeting and routine trail maintenance on the evening of July 21 at the Boyden Heights Conservation Area.

Commission Member Items

- Ernie reported that the RI Land Trust has posted on its web site the schedule for three (3) hikes at City open space areas as follows: Boyden Heights, August 15; Turner Reservoir Loop, August 29; and Hunt's Mill, September 12. All hikes will take place on Saturday mornings starting at 9:00am.
- Jim reported on state legislation that was passed this session in the General Assembly on state wide cesspool phaseout requirements and amendments to the Freshwater Wetlands Act.
- Keith reported that the Roger Williams paddle event was successful with DEM Director Janet Coit joining the paddlers along the Seekonk River.

Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:40 PM to conduct trail maintenance at the Boyden Heights Conservation Area for the remainder of the evening

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall**. A meeting will not be held in August.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary