

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2015

East Providence City Hall

7:30 PM

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

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

Call to Order - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Public present: None

Public Comment: None

Review of Minutes - The June 16 and July 18 meeting minutes were reviewed with a motion to accept by J. Burrridge and seconded by E. Germani. The Commission voted unanimously to approved both sets of meeting minutes as read.

Planning Department Update

- Playground and Development Projects - Wayne reported that the Silver Spring project that was funded through a DEM grant is nearly completed. Additionally, the Central Avenue playground construction bid documents are being developed with an expectation that construction would begin this Fall.
- Save The Bay waterfront cleanup events - Wayne reported that Save The Bay was planning shoreline cleanups at Bold and Sabin Points as part of the International Coastal Cleanup event scheduled on Saturday, September 19.
- Kettle Point/Squantum Woods proposed trail - Wayne and Ernie reported on the proposed Squantum Woods trail as part of the Kettle Point mixed-use development project. The conceptual trail, as shown on project site plans, would link the East Bay Bike Path to the existing pond in Squantum Woods.

Correspondence - None

Old Business

- Conservation Commission hikes review - As previously reported, the Commission cosponsored three trail walks this past summer with the Providence County Hiking Club and the Ten Mile River Watershed Council. The walks were deemed a success as they were well attended with interested folks. The hikes show cased easily accessible hikes in scenic sections of East Providence. The Commission agreed that similar hikes should be scheduled again next year.

New Business

- Hunts Mill Terrace Garden trail improvement plan - Commissioners discussed realigning the Terrace Garden trail to make it more accessible and relevant from the roadway. The idea is to have the top (northern) section of the trail continue east about 50 feet onto Hunt's Mill Road

for better trail visibility and promote more walking access. Details will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

- Additional trail mapping and brochure development - Commissioners discussed posting PDF file format trail maps on the Commission web page for easy public access and download. Maps for Boyden Height Conservation Area, Turner Reservoir, Hunt's Mill and Willet Pond have been or are being developed by E. Germani.

Commission Member Items

- Keith suggested an idea to hold a Commission rain barrel sale as was done in years past to raise funds for Commission projects. He also suggested that the City consider developing a Frisbee disc golf playing field for recreational enjoyment.
- Jim reported on the condition and needed repair for a section of boardwalk railing on the lower Turner Reservoir loop trail. (Note: The railing was repaired within 2 weeks following the report)

Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:23 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by J. Burrige.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

The Commission sadly notes the passing of long time Commission member and Vice-Chair John Rose on October 12th. The Commission will discuss a tribute to John at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary