

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2016

East Providence City Hall

7:30 PM

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

Members absent: None

Call to Order - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Review of Minutes - The April 19, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as read on a motion by E. Germani and seconded by J. Burridge.

Public present: Patrick Hanner, City Planning Department

Public Comment: (See Jones Pond project discussion)

Planning Department Update

- Wayne noted that the City was applying for four (4) grants through the RIDEM Recreation Grant program for improvements at City recreational facilities as follows: DelleFemine Field, behind Riverside Middle school; Kent Heights Playground; Central Avenue Park (Moniz Playground); and Silver Spring Playground, Phase II. Wayne indicated that the Planning Department was seeking a Council Resolution for approval and priority to support the RIDEM grant application.

Correspondence

- The Burrillville Land Trust and RI Association of Conservation Commissions sent a letter to the Commission requesting opposition to the proposed Clear River Energy facility (approximately 900MW gas-fired electric generation plant) to be constructed in the Town of Burrillville off Wallum Lake Road. The power plant application is presently being reviewed by the state Energy Facility Siting Board and other state agencies.

Old Business

- Boyden Heights parking lot fence - Wayne reported that the City applied to RIDEM for a small trails grant to replace the parking lot fence and separate the walking trails from the parking area. The lowest of three bids was \$920.
- Earth Day activities - Commissioners discussed the successful clean up of the Boyden Heights Conservation Area shoreline on April 23 and the planting of the John Rose memorial tree. Wayne indicated that he was preparing a brief activity report to send to the Narragansett Bay Commission.
- National Trails Day activities - Commissioners made plans to meet at 9:00am on Saturday, June 4 for a trail cleanup and planting of native shrubs at Hunt's Mill in collaboration with the Ten Mile River Watershed Council.

- Trail maps and brochure development - Ernie reported that he was completing the combined map brochure with trail maps of Boyden Heights; Hunt's Mill; Turner Reservoir; and Willet Pond. Upon final editing the map will be available online at the Commission's website.
- East Providence Art's Council event - Wayne reported that an event will be held at the John Hunt House on Sunday, June 26 from 11am-4pm. The event is an opportunity to highlight the Commission and Ten Mile River Watershed Council with event attendees.
- Thank you letter to former Chair Nik - Wayne circulated a letter for Commission review and approval to send to former Commission Chair Lorraine Nik to thank her for many years of service and excellent leadership of the Commission.

New Business

- Hoppin Avenue parcel donation - Following discussion from a previous meeting, the Commission voted to recommend that the City accept the offer of land donation of a parcel located on Hoppin Avenue identified as Map 411, Block 16, Lot 11 on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by J. Burrige. The recommendation was made to increase open space and protect water quality, as the parcel abuts a stream in the area.
- Jones Pond project - Patrick Hanner from City Planning reported that landscape amenities and stormwater management are being planned for the project. Volunteers will be needed in October to help with landscape plantings, and Commissioners offered to be of service as needed.
- John Hunt House Open House dates - Wayne indicated that the Commission was invited to attend the open house and art show scheduled for June 12. Open house dates are planned for the 2nd Sunday of June July and August.

Commission Member Items

- Jim indicated that he would not be available for the June 21 meeting and asked Commissioners to consider meeting at 6:30pm for all future Commission meetings, rather than at 7:30pm.
- Marie reported that this would be her last meeting as a Commissioner, as she and her family were moving to Massachusetts to be closer to her employer.
- Keith noted that a display is planned for the pump house at Hunt's Mill to demonstrate how the dynamo operates to generate hydroelectric power.

Commissioners decided to cancel the June meeting and meet as regularly scheduled in July.

Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:44 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary