

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

East Providence City Hall, Room A

6:30 PM

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

Members absent: None

Call to Order - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

- Carissa Lord stated that she had been sworn by the City Clerk earlier in the day as a duly appointed Conservation Commission member.

Review of Minutes - The March 21, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by E. Germani and seconded by J. Burridge.

Public Attendees - None

Public Comment - None

Planning Department Update

- Wayne reported that the Sabin Point stormwater improvement project is getting underway with a recently issued CRMC Assent for the installation of a grass covered sand filter to treat stormwater. The stormwater best management practice (BMP) is a retrofit of existing stormwater drainage onto the beach area and is part of the master plan for park improvements.
- The Planning Department is awaiting the final survey plan with notation to complete the Hoppin Avenue land donation process.
- Wayne also reported that the Rumford Rifle Range munition study and remediation project is underway with Weston Consultants survey crews present along the Ten Mile River Bike Path and adjacent woods to determine the presence of any munitions from historic range use.

Correspondence - None

Old Business

- Boy Scouts - Eagle Scout Project - Keith reported that the message board was recently installed at the beginning of the Ten Mile River Bike Path behind the Wolf School in Rumford.
- Utility line tree clearing - Wayne reported ongoing communication with National Grid to determine any needed action.
- Boyden Heights Stairway rail project - The project was completed by Commission members on Saturday, April 15.
- Boyden Heights Earth Day cleanup project - Wayne reported that a number of plants have been selected for the proposed butterfly garden planned at the top of the pathway from the parking lot. Plants will be purchased through a grant provided by the Narragansett Bay Commission. Commission members and other volunteers will meet on Saturday, April 22 at 9:00am for the clean up and planting.

New Business

- Turner Reservoir Hike - Vice Chair Ernie Germani will lead a hike around the reservoir on Friday, April 21 at 9:00am.
- Providence Country Day School project - Students will conduct Earth Day cleanup at Hunt's Mill on Friday, April 21.
- Narragansett Bay Commission Grant project - The NBC has provided a \$250 grant that will be used to purchase plant materials to install the butterfly garden at the Boyden Heights Conservation Area on April 22 as part of the Conservation Commission's Earth Day activity.

Commission Member Items

- Ernie reported that the a small section of boardwalk on the approach to the Turner Reservoir dam (east side) was in need of repair.
- Wayne reported that the City had received the official FEMA letter recognizing the City's Hazard Management Plan.
- Cheryl reported that Roger Williams Zoo is now collecting styrofoam for recycling.
- Keith reported that herring have arrived at Hunt's Mill fish ladder as of April 14. He also noted that there is interest in converting the former Water Department storage area near the gate at Hunt's Mill into a public parking area for hikers and other visitors of the property

Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:44 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary