

East Providence Conservation Commission

March 20, 2012
East Providence City Hall - Room 306
7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Members present: John Rose (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes, John Burrige, Frank Dias, Keith Gonsalves, and James Boyd (Secretary)

Public present: Marie Esten - Marie was on the March 20 City Council docket for appointment to the East Providence Conservation Commission. See New Business below.

Call to Order

Vice Chair Rose called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Review of Minutes

After reviewing the meeting minutes of February 21, 2012 the Commission voted to approve them without modification on a motion to accept by K. Gonsalves and seconded by J. Burrige.

Planning Department Update

Ten Mile River Fish Ladder update - Keith reported that 99 herring were lifted at Omega Dam on March 20. A white board is to be installed at the Hunt's Mill fish ladder to provide a light colored contrasting background to aid in counting fish as they travel up the ladder. A fish count will be conducted during the April 21 Earth Day activities at Hunt's Mill to include both the Conservation Commission and the Ten Mile River Watershed Group.

Seaconke Trails Committee - The installation of a trail bridge was originally planned to cross a wetland area behind the Newman YMCA. However, an archaeological survey is needed due to the potential presence of artifacts and would result in delaying the project. Evidently, the trail route has been modified to avoid the wetland area so that funding can be allocated quickly and the project completed.

Correspondence

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - public notice regarding the issuance of the Rhode Island General Permit (RIGP) for a five year period. The RIGP authorizes minor activities in tidal and fresh waters and wetlands provided the activities meet certain thresholds. Otherwise, activities that exceed thresholds are subject to an individual federal permit.

Continued Business

Boyden Heights Conservation Area - The installation of the new pump station has been completed. It is now connected to the new force main that was installed along the East Bay Bike Path located downhill from the pump station. A thirty-foot wide construction area was cleared along the Boyden Boulevard easement extension to the bike path and will likely be subject to erosion if not stabilized properly. Additionally, the cleared area along the slope will likely be inviting to pedestrians seeking a short cut to the bike path. The Conservation Commission will

monitor the site once all construction is completed and will make recommendations if necessary to protect the Conservation Area.

Hunt's Mill Terrace Garden project. The Commission will be holding an Earth Day cleanup on April 21 starting at 9:00 am. Final details will be discussed at the April 17 meeting.

New Business

Commission membership roster - Marie Esten was listed on the March 20 City Council docket for appointment to the Commission. Marie has an excellent environmental background and will be an asset to the Commission.

RI Renewable Energy Partnership (RESP) - Wayne indicated that a RESP meeting was holding "Rhode Island RESP Renewable Energy Day", scheduled for March 31, at the Newport campus of CCRI. The flyer for this event and the RESP website address were made available to the Commission.

East Providence Rain Garden Training and Installation - Wayne reported that Kate Venturini of the URI Cooperative Extension was providing a training session on the installation of a residential rain garden at Weaver Library on April 3. The fee is \$100. Information and registration materials were made available at the meeting.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by J. Burrige.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 7:30 pm in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary