

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2013
City Hall, East Providence
7:30 PM

Members present: John Rose (Vice Chair), John Burridge, Marie Esten, Keith Gonsalves, and James Boyd (Secretary)

Members Absent: Lorraine Nik (Chair) and Wayne Barnes

Public present: None

Call to Order - Vice Chair J. Rose called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Review of Minutes - The Commission reviewed and approved the April 16 meeting minutes on a motion by M. Esten and seconded by J. Burridge.

Public Comment - None

Planning Department Update

- Waterfront District Clean Up Initiative - No new information was available. W. Barnes will provide an update on the initiative at the next meeting.

Correspondence

- RI Association of Conservation Commissions (RIACC) letter to the House of Representatives, dated May 10, regarding legislation (H5703) affecting the subdivision of land. The bill adds a definition for “slope of land” and prohibits the exclusion of such from the calculation of buildable lot area, minimum lot size or in the calculation of the number of buildable lots or units. The RIACC letter objected to the legislation and requested the House to reconsider the bill. The legislation was passed by the House on May 14 and referred to the Senate Judiciary committee on May 21.

Old Business

- Earth Day - The Commission discussed accomplishments of the April 20 event at the Hunt’s Mill property. Mountain Laurel shrubs (six total) were planted along the loop trail, invasive vines were removed and trail maintenance was completed.
- RIACC April 30 meeting review - W. Barnes was not present to provide a briefing.
- Boyden Heights Boardwalk Stairway - The Commission discussed a strategy to construct stairs for the boardwalk. K. Gonsalves offered to visit the site and inventory the materials left over from previous construction work. Commissioners agreed that a workday in late June for a Saturday morning would be appropriate. Final details will be planned at the June 18 meeting.

New Business

- National Trails Day, June 1 - The Seaconke Trails Committee has scheduled a trails maintenance day for the new trail system located on land directly behind the Newman YMCA.

Commissioners discussed participation and will join others at 9:30 am Saturday, June 1 at the trailhead behind the YMCA.

- Summer meeting schedule - Commissioners discussed and agreed to meet in June and August, but no meeting for July.

Commission Member Items

- K. Gonsalves informed members that the Ten Mile River Watershed Council will hold a 2.7 mile hike around the Turner Reservoir loop on Sunday, June 2 starting at 10:00am.
- J. Boyd was reappointed to the Commission by the City Council at the April 16 meeting.
- K. Gonsalves also wanted to inform members that the Ten Mile River Watershed Council has planned a paddle event from Kimberly Rock School to Slater Park on June 16.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM on a motion by M. Esten and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 7:30 pm** in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary