

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2013

City Hall, East Providence

7:30 PM

Members present: Lorraine Nik (Chair), John Rose (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes, John Burrige, Marie Esten, Keith Gonsalves, and James Boyd (Secretary)

Members Absent: None

Public present: None

Call to Order - Chair L. Nik called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Review of Minutes - The Commission reviewed and approved the June 18 meeting minutes on a motion to approve by M. Esten and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

Public Comment - No public present

Planning Department Update

- Omega Pond Fish Ladder - Wayne reported that the staging of construction equipment is underway with construction to begin soon. The location of the National Grid high capacity natural gas main has finally been accurately established on site plans. Previous information showed the line in a different location. Following construction of a coffer dam the gas line will be relocated away from the base of the dam to accommodate construction of the fish ladder. The Commission will follow construction progress until completion next year.
- Rhode Map Regional Forum - Wayne reported that he had attended the Statewide Planning program meeting that introduced a new initiative to help shape the future of Rhode Island communities and plan for growth centers, economic growth, affordable housing and preserved open spaces statewide, among other issues. There were approximately 100 people in attendance at the August 8th event. More community meetings are planned.
- FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) update - Wayne noted that FEMA has provided local communities updated FIRMs that need to be adopted along with revised local flood plain ordinances. The City Council was to consider the adoption of both items on the August 20 meeting docket.

Correspondence

- City law department memorandum - The law department recently issued guidance for City elected and appointed officials regarding recusals. Wayne will share with the Commission at the next meeting.
- CRMC public notice - The CRMC issued a public notice for a proposed mixed-use commercial development project located at Kettle Point. It is the former site of an oil tank farm that has been remediated for soil contamination under EM regulations to permit residential use.

Old Business

- Boyden Heights Boardwalk Stairway - The Commission briefly discussed a work plan for constructing the stairway for the boardwalk. A work date and details will be discussed at the September meeting.

New Business - None

Commission Member Items

- J. Boyd noted that the Superior Court decision in the TLA Pond View case was recently issued. The Court determined that the matter had to be returned to the City Zoning Board because proper procedures were not adhered to in issuing a decision on a zoning ordinance violation.

Adjournment

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM on a motion by J. Rose and seconded by J. Boyd.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 7:30 pm** in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary