

East Providence Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2020
Online Zoom meeting
6:30 PM

Members present: Greg Burnett, Mary Beth Dwyer, Ernie Germani (Vice Chair), Keith Gonsalves (Chair), Patrick Hanner (City Liaison) and Cheryl Vieira

Members absent: James Boyd (Secretary)

Public attendees: William Fazioli (EP City Planning Director) and John Carney

Call to Order: Chair Keith Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

Adoption of Minutes: None

Public Comment: None.

Planning Department Update:

Mr. Hanner informed the Commission that the Metacomet Golf Club plan B that was submitted to the Planning Department on September 16, 2020 is currently under review as a Land Development Project by City staff. The applicant is proposing 7 two-story building, 3,711 parking spaces and 6 driveways. City staff is concerned about the 3 proposed driveways on Fort Street and the large amount of off-street parking. City staff comments were sent to the applicant on October 6, 2020 that include a strong recommendation to eliminate the 3 proposed driveways on Fort Street, a traffic impact study must be submitted during the master plan stage, and a greater attempt to preserve the existing natural features of the property must be made by the applicant.

The Urban Forest Tree Inventory project is moving forward with the purchase of the equipment and software along with the training to take place during the winter of 2020. All of the members of the Commission are encouraged to participate.

Correspondence: None

New Business:

1. Tree ordinance

Mr. Hanner stated that the Planning Department reviewed the City's existing tree ordinance (section 19-52) that allows for a 5 member commission, a license arborist and the ability to provide recommendations to protect and maintain public trees, and that it appears the existing tree ordinance is adequate, however a few minor changes may be suggested by the Planning Department. Several Commission members noted that the existing tree ordinance appears

sufficient for the protection of the City's existing public trees and that a duplicate ordinance may not be necessary.

Old Business

1. Newman crossing trailhead

All of the commission members were in agreement that a trail beginning at the Newman Avenue crossing continuing north along the Seekonk side of the reservoir should be encouraged. Further, there appears sufficient contiguous land owned by the City to complete a trail from Newman Avenue north towards the Seacunke Sanctuary conservation properties. The next step is for the commission members to sketch a proposed trail and entry points.

Commission Member Items

- E. Germani informed the commission that several trees near the gazebo at Hunt's Mills were removed that were in poor condition, possibly diseased and that several more trees at Hunt's Mills will be removed in the near future.
- G. Burnett recently observed several trash receptacles at Hunt's Mills and the Turner Reservoir Raised Walkway were overflowing.
- K. Gonsalves informed the commission that dumping has been observed at the turn-around at Hunt's Mills, Preservation Rhode Island will be operating an urban farm at the Phillip Walker House and that an increase of residents has been noted participating in environmental issues.

Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:26 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Hanner