

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2021

City Hall Conference Room A (Moved to Room 306)

6:30 P.M.

Members present:, John Carney, Ernie Germani, Keith Gonsalves (Chair), Kelsey Queenan and Patrick Hanner (City Liaison)

Members absent: James Boyd and Waynes Barnes

Public Attendees: None

A. Call to Order: Chairman Keith Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

B. Review and Action of Meeting Minutes: The September 21, 2021 meeting minutes were approved by the Commission following a motion to approve by P. Hanner and seconded by E. Germani.

C. Public Comment: None

D. Planning Department Update:

1. Newport Center development at the intersection of New Road and Newport Avenue is in the early construction phase.
2. Comprehensive Plan – The drafting of the individual elements will begin in November. It is anticipated that the draft elements will be available for review and comment by commission members in January/February 2022.

E. Correspondence:

None

F. New Business:

1. Comprehensive Plan update

See item D above.

2. Council/Commission letter of appreciation to Cheryl Vieira for her service on the Conservation Commission since 1/1/2019. She submitted her resignation on 9/20/21;

P. Hanner will draft a letter to be shared with commission members.

3. Status update on Willet Pond aquatic invasive plant eradication and aerator fountain installation;

According to P. Hanner, as of October 2021, 13 trees were removed that were in poor condition. 21 trees will be planted this fall along with arborvitaes to be planted along the rear property line of the plaza to provide a buffer.

4. Legal filing update, if any, on appeal of Metacomet property zoning change case at Superior Court;

According to P. Hanner, the appeal is pending a court date. There has been no submission of any type of development project.

5. Fall improvement projects

The commission members discussed several projects that could be undertaken this fall such as the design of the Grassy Plains trail system along with the Boyden Heights and Willett Pond trail clearing. Several commission member will visit the Squantum Woods trail to determine if any maintenance is needed.

6. Other business

G. Old Business

1. Newman Crossing trailhead: J. Boyd has spoken with a member of the Seekonk Land Trust and will work to organize a meeting between the East Providence and Seekonk conservation groups to further explore collaboration and possible development of the trailhead to connect with existing trails along Central Pond and the Gamino Pond Conservation Area in Seekonk.

H. Commission Member Items

- Chair K. Gonsalves expressed interest in the Mobil dam
- W. Barnes reported that he has been working on updating the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan with a draft anticipated by February 2022.
- E. Germani reported that the Land Trust Days Turner Reservoir hike will take place on Sunday, September 26 at 09:00 meeting at the Pleasant Street parking area.

I. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:37 P.M.

The Conservation Commission will hold a regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m at City Hall**. Room TBD.

Respectfully submitted,

James Boyd, Secretary