

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2022

City Hall - Room 308

6:30 P.M.

Members present: James Boyd (Secretary), John Carney, Ernie Germani (Vice Chair), Keith Gonsalves (Chair), Patrick Hanner, and Jeremy Spurr

Members absent: Wayne Barnes and Kelsey Queenan

Public Attendees: Heather Andrade and Candy Seel

A. Call to Order - Chair Keith Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

B. Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes - The Commission adopted the November 15 meeting minutes on a motion by P. Hanner and seconded by E. Germani.

C. Public Comment - At the request of Candy Seel, representing Keep Metacomet Green (KMG), the Commission deferred public comment following the Commission's deliberation and action under agenda item F.1, below.

D. Planning Department Update

1. P. Hanner indicated that there are no new major development projects under review by the Planning Department.

E. Correspondence - None

F. New Business

1. Advisory opinion to the East Providence Waterfront Commission regarding proposed design guidelines for the Metacomet sub-district. After review of the KMG proposed design guidelines and in consideration of KMG's November 15, 2022 presentation and request to the Commission, J. Boyd made a motion to support in principle the KMG proposed design guidelines, as maybe amended. Additionally, the motion included a recommendation to the East Providence Waterfront Commission (EPWC) to adopt the KMG proposed guidelines for the Metacomet sub-district. The motion was seconded by J. Carney. The Commission then discussed how a recommendation would be made to the EPWC, it's content and to include a reference to the open space and scenic vistas along Veterans Parkway and to preserve it as a linear park. Following discussion and deliberation, the Commission voted to approve the motion with Chairman K. Gonsalves abstaining. J. Boyd offered to draft a recommendation and send it to the Planning Department to be forwarded to the EPWC. As part of public comment (see Item C, above) Candy Seel thanked the Commission for its thoughtful deliberation and vote to support in principle the proposed design guidelines.

2. Discussion of pedestrian link from the terminus of Redland Avenue at parcel 502-05-068.00 owned by the East Providence Water Department to the Ten Mile River Bike Path. J. Boyd had requested this agenda item for discussion only. The Commission determined that a site visit by the Planning Department staff should be conducted to determine the viability of connecting the southern terminus of the bike path with Redland Avenue. It may be possible to provide pedestrian access only in the near-term (until such time that the bike path may officially be extended by RIDOT) at the northern end of Redland Avenue across the City-owned parcel to the bike path.
3. Status of Army National Guard remediation of former Rumford Rifle Range (Ten Mile River Greenway). Site remediation work continues by contractor Weston Solutions. P. Hanner will email the contractor for a new project status update. See: https://eastprovidenceri.gov/sites/default/files/field/files-docs/calendar/rumford_ra_phase_1_fact_sheet_final.pdf.
4. Stormwater management. This item was inadvertently added to the agenda.
5. Runnins River stormwater management plan update. P. Hanner reported that a site visit was conducted on 12/13/22 with City Planning staff, the TRC consulting group and Save The Bay to review potential best management practices that could be installed in the vicinity of Catamore Boulevard to treat stormwater runoff to improve water quality in the Runnins River. A conceptual plan will be developed over the winter.
6. Comprehensive Plan update. P. Hanner indicated that the Land Use element is being edited and revised along with development of the Future Land Use map. These draft documents will be provided to the Commission for review and comment at a later date.

G. Other Business - None

H. Old Business

1. Newman Crossing trailhead. J. Boyd indicated he is planning a meeting with a Seekonk colleague to discuss potential collaboration.
2. Ian Motes Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook. The Commission reviewed the project workbook, and Ian Motes plans on starting the project on May 20, 2023.

H. Commission Member Items: None

I. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:42 P.M.

The Conservation Commission will meet next on **Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m** City Hall - Room 308. Election of officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary) will be held in accordance with the East Providence Revised Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article III, Division 4, Section 2-98(a). In addition, the Commission will review a draft of its annual report pursuant to Id. § 2-98(b).

Respectfully submitted,

James Boyd, Secretary