

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2022

City Hall - Room 308

6:30 P.M.

Members present: Wayne Barnes, James Boyd (Secretary), John Carney, Keith Gonsalves (Chair), Patrick Hanner, Kelsey Queenan and Jeremy Spurr

Members absent: Ernie Germani (Vice Chair)

Public Attendees: Candy Seel, Heather Andrade and Frank Fogarty

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 October 18 meeting minutes with corrections on a motion by K. Queenan and seconded by J. Spurr.

C. Public Comment - Candy Seel, representing Keep Metacomet Green (KMG), read into the record her letter dated November 15 requesting the Commission's support of the KMG proposed development guidelines for Area A (60 acres under review by the City's Waterfront District Commission). Ms. Seel subsequently emailed the letter to City Planning staff, which was then forwarded to Commission members for review. See item E.1 below.

D. Planning Department Update

1. P. Hanner indicated that planning staff were wrapping up latest edits to the City Comprehensive Plan and he will be sending the land use element, future land use map and the natural resource elements for Commission review soon.

E. Correspondence

1. October 28 email from Candy Seel to City Planning Department with proposed Design Guidelines for the Metacomet Subdistrict, dated October 11, 2022.

F. New Business

1. Status of Army National Guard remediation of former Rumford Rifle Range (Ten Mile River Greenway). Site remediation work continues by contractor Weston Solutions, as per email from Erik Ackerman to P. Hanner on November 18, 2022. See:

https://eastprovidenceri.gov/sites/default/files/field/files-docs/calendar/rumford_ra_phase_1_fact_sheet_final.pdf.

2. Trailhead Kiosk project update. The RIDEM is presently reviewing prior grant awards to communities and the City Planning Department is anticipating an approximately \$13,750 grant from RIDEM to purchase and install 4 trailhead kiosks for the Turner Reservoir Loop, Willett Pond, Boyden Heights and Hunt's Mills trails. City Planning Department is awaiting confirmation from RIDEM.

3. New City development projects. P. Hanner indicated that there are no new major projects under review by the Planning Department.
4. Stormwater management. P. Hanner will forward City regulations pertaining to stormwater management requirements for new development and redevelopment projects to J. Spurr for review and recommendations.
5. Runnins River stormwater management plan update. P. Hanner reported that the TRC consulting group and Save The Bay will be conducting a site visit in the vicinity of Catamore Boulevard to help determine potential best management practices to treat stormwater runoff.
6. Comprehensive Plan update. P. Hanner will distribute documents to the Commission as noted above in D.1.

G. Other Business - None

1. The Quantum Woods historic trail restoration project will be conducted by Eagle Scout Ian Mote during Spring of 2023.
2. Hunt's Mill Board walk repair. Commissioners scheduled a repair of the trailhead boardwalk post adjacent to the Gazebo for Saturday morning, October 22. (Repair was completed with post replacement.)

H. Old Business

1. Newman Crossing trailhead: J. Boyd will be organizing the project this winter. J. Spurr suggested the potential use of ARPA funds for the project.

H. Commission Member Items

- Chair K. Gonsalves indicated that a boat is sunk at the Haines Park boat ramp and needs to be removed. Additionally, L. Sweet Lumber donated lumber to the Ten Mile River Watershed Council that will be used for constructing new projects such as boardwalks where needed.
- W. Barnes reviewed Commission appointments and noted expiration dates for members. He also reminded members of the Commission's annual report due on January 15 of each year, and he reported that the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved by FEMA.
- J. Boyd noted that the Hunt's Mill trailhead boardwalk support post had recently been replaced/repared adjacent to the gazebo.
- J. Carney noted that there is severe erosion at the Turner Reservoir trailhead at the bus turn around on Pleasant Street. He also has been clearing trash along the Willet Pond trail.
- K. Queenan noted the new sign at Hunt's Mill along Pleasant Street indicating association with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. She also inquired as to the possibility of City cleanups outside of Earth Day, as there is local

student interest. Commissioners suggested students should identify potential targeted areas.

- J. Spurr noted that new updated signage will be installed at all City parks.

I. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:48 P.M.

The Conservation Commission will meet next on **Tuesday, December 13*, 2022 at 6:30 p.m** City Hall - Room 308

* Please note that the next meeting will be held on the second, rather than the third, Tuesday in December to avoid conflict with the upcoming holiday week.

Respectfully submitted,

James Boyd, Secretary