

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2023

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, Kelsey Queenan and Meg Robinson (Tree Commission liaison)

Public Attendees: None

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 October 17, 2023 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by E. Germani and seconded by P. Hanner.

C. Public Comment: None

D. Planning Department Update:

1. P. Hanner reported that all new development applications are on hold until the new subdivision and zoning regulations are enacted and implemented for January 1, 2024. The new rules have been publicly noticed and are being vetted by the City Council.

E. Correspondence: None

F. New Business

1. Discussion of Army Corps Rumford Rifle Range Remediation. P. Hanner reported that a site visit with Corps staff and the contractor was conducted two weeks earlier to review condition of the planted trees and shrubs. Grass is growing through the site and the planting of all trees and shrubs has been completed in accordance with the planting plan. Plantings will need to be monitored into the next growing season to ensure survivability and replacement as may be necessary.
2. Trail head Kiosks. The trailhead kiosks for the Willett Pond, Turner Reservoir Loop, Boyden Heights Conservation Area and Hunt's Mills Trails have been installed. The next step is to get associated trail maps printed, enclosed with plexiglass and installed on each kiosk.
3. Annual Report. Commissioners discussed items for the 2023 annual report . P. Hanner requested photos from members for activities conducted by the Commission during the past year. A draft report will be sent to members for review for the first meeting in 2024 (January 16).

G. Old Business

1. Options for repair of Boyden Heights Conservation Area wetland boardwalk. The Public Works Department/Parks Division has assessed the boardwalk condition and has developed a remedy to resolve the structural issue.
2. Runnins River stormwater management plan update. P. Hanner reported that two design concept plans are. Being developed for permitting. The Risho Ave./Catamore Blvd. stormwater treatment design will be submitted for permitting first with the expectation that the project will be “shovel ready” for installation upon future grant funding.
3. Newman Avenue crossing trailhead. Following up on the November 18 site inspection for a potential new trail, the Commission agreed that the City Law and Water Departments would need to review the matter and a determination made as to whether a Class 1 survey will be necessary along with the installation of a split rail fence to demarcate City-owned property and individual Seekonk residential lots. The November 18 site inspection revealed extensive encroachment onto City-owned property.

H. Other Business:

1. The Turner Reservoir trailhead condition needs to be addressed with some gravel fill placed into the stormwater runoff eroded section. The new permeable paver parking lot should substantially reduce future runoff onto the trailhead.

I. Commission Member Items:

- K. Gonsalves noted that a serious erosion problem exists along the East Bay Bike Path at the Veterans Parkway overlook. It will need to be addressed soon. E. Germani noted that the September 24 Turner Reservoir loop hike as part of the RI Land Trust Days events was a success.

J. Adjournment: The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024** (1st meeting of the New year) at 6:30 p.m City Hall - Room 308. The Commission will elect officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary) in accordance with the East Providence Revised Ordinance § 2-98.

Respectfully submitted,
James Boyd, Secretary