

# East Providence Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2014

City Hall Room A

7:30 PM

**Members present:** Lorraine Nik (Chair), Wayne Barnes, Keith Gonsalves and James Boyd (Secretary)

**Members absent:** John Burrridge, Marie Esten and John Rose (Vice Chair)

**Public present:** None

**Call to Order** - Chair L. Nik called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

**Review of Minutes** - The October 21, 2014 meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted on a motion to approve by K. Gonsalves and seconded by W. Barnes.

### **Planning Department Update**

- Omega Pond Fish Ladder - Keith reported that construction continues with concrete being poured with rebar reinforcement within the coffer dam that will form the foundation of the fish ladder structure.
- Parks/Playground Update - Wayne reported that a construction bid for the Silver Spring playground reconstruction project was being evaluated by the Planning Department.

### **Correspondence**

- DEM - “America the Beautiful” grants program announcement for tree planting and maintenance projects. Proposals need to be filed by December 3, 2014. The Commission discussed the potential for a Hunt’s Mill proposal. Wayne would provide more details to Commissioner’s by email following the meeting. Upon subsequent review, it was determined that the match requirement was too high and other plan requirements made the proposal unsuitable for consideration at this time.

### **Old Business** - None

- 2015 City Comprehensive Plan Update: Goals and Objectives - Wayne reported that the Planning Department was scheduled to hold a public meeting on November 20 at the Weaver Library for interested citizens to provide input and discuss elements of the comprehensive plan with City planners. Wayne requested Commissioners to provide suggestions by email for the Open Space element Goals and Objectives.

### **New Business**

- 2015 Commission Work Plan - Commissioners discussed potential projects for the new year including planting trees, Hunt’s Mill terrace garden maintenance and Boyden Heights trail maintenance.

- 2014 Conservation Commission Annual Report - Wayne indicated that he would draft the 2014 report for Commission review and approval at a subsequent meeting.
- RI Wildlife Action Plan - Wayne reported that the RIDEM was moving forward with developing the state plan to enhance and preserve wildlife habitat. The plan is being developed to address multiple challenges including climate change impacts to habitat. See: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/swap15.htm>.

#### **Commission Member Items**

- Commissioners discussed a potential tour of the new solar electric generation facility located at the old Forbes Street landfill site. Wayne indicated that it might be possible to schedule a spring time tour.

**Adjournment** - The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM on a motion by K. Gonsalves and seconded by J. Boyd.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 21, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.** in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary