

# **East Providence Conservation Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**May 19, 2015**

City Hall Room A

7:30 PM

**Members present:** Keith Gonsalves (Chair) John Rose (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes, Ernie Germani, and James Boyd (Secretary)

**Members absent:** John Burrridge, Marie Esten and Lorraine Nik

**Call to Order** - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

**Public present:** William Weber, representing East Providence Lions Club

**Public Comment:** Mr. Weber indicated that the East Providence and Rumford Lions Clubs were planning a clean-up at Hunt's Mill.

**Review of Minutes** - The April 21, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted on a motion to approve by E. Germani and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

### **Planning Department Update**

- **Fish Ladder Project Completion** - Keith reported that a June 19 ribbon cutting ceremony is planned by the U.S. Army Corps to celebrate completion of the Ten Mile River fish ladders at Omega Pond, Hunt's Mill and Turner Reservoir. He will email details when available.
- **Conservation Commission web page** - Wayne reported that a new and better web page layout for the Commission's information has been completed. The new page design is more user friendly and provides links to the East Providence trail section of E. Germani's Rhode Island trail blog: <https://trailsandwalksri.wordpress.com/category/east-providence-ri/>
- **Hunt's Mill Utility Right-of-Way** - It was reported that the City Water Utilities Division had cleared trees and vegetation along an existing 16-inch water line right-of way (ROW) on the Hunt's Mill property. The cleared area extends several hundred feet and is about 20 feet wide. Apparently the ROW was cleared for the purpose of future maintenance on the water line. However, Commission members were concerned about the lack of erosion control, especially because of the proximity of the work to the Ten Mile River, and discussed sending a letter to the Division requesting the installation of erosion and sediment control practices and seeding with a conservation seed mix until the cleared area is stabilized with vegetation. J. Boyd offered to draft a letter for Commission review.

**Correspondence** - None

### **Old Business**

- **Hunt's Mill pocket wetland areas** - As previously discussed, two small wetland areas are visible on the lawn area of Hunt's Mill closest to Pleasant Street. During winter and spring months they show standing water and contain wetland vegetation. However, the City Parks Division has been mowing the pocket wetlands during late spring and summer months

provided the areas are no so wet as to cause machinery to get bogged down in mud. Commission members discussed requesting the Parks Division to refrain from mowing these areas on a regular basis and only cut them once per year in the fall to maintain the wetland pockets as meadow habitat. J. Boyd offered to draft a letter along with photographs to document the wetlands for Commission review and then to be sent to the Parks Division with the request.

### **New Business**

- National Trail Day - June 6, 2015 - Work Plan - Keith reported that the Ten Mile River Watershed Council would be contributing and planting six mountain laurel shrubs along the Hunt's Mill Terrace Loop Trail. Commissioners and other volunteers will be meeting on Saturday, June 6 at 10:00am to conduct trail maintenance on the Hunt's Mil Trails. Mr. Weber indicated that he would discuss with the EP Lions possible participation in the trail maintenance work the same day.

### **Commission Member Items**

- Wayne reported that he was investigating possible use of QR code signs for posting at Boyden Heights and perhaps at Hunt's Mill as well. Visitors could scan the QR code and access online links to historic photographs and other pertinent information about the area.

**Adjournment** - The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 PM on a motion by J. Rose and seconded by J. Boyd.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 16th at 7:30 p.m.** in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall.

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary