

# **East Providence Conservation Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**June 16, 2015**

City Hall Room A

7:30 PM

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

**Members absent:** John Burrridge and Lorraine Nik

**Call to Order** - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

**Public present:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Review of Minutes** - The May 19, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted on a motion to approve by E. Germani and seconded by M. Esten.

### **Planning Department Update**

- Army Corps of Engineers Fish Ladder Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Keith and Wayne reported that the June 19 ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 10:30am on June 19 at Hunt's Mill.
- Conservation Commission web page - Wayne reported that a picture has been added along with more information on the Commission's webpage.

### **Correspondence**

- The South Kingstown Conservation Commission sent notice of the RI Interfaith Power & Light panel discussion of wind and solar energy to be held at 7pm on June 18 at the Peace Dale Congregational Church in South Kingstown.

### **Old Business**

- National Trail Day Event - Commissioners reviewed accomplishments of the work day held at Hunt's Mill on Saturday, June 6. Completed projects were: the placement of 7 trail sign posts, the installation of stone steps leading from the gazebo onto the adjacent loop trail, trail maintenance and invasive plant removal, and the planting of six (6) mountain laurel shrubs procured by the Ten Mile River Watershed Council (TMRWC). Food and water were kindly provided by the TMRWC for all work day volunteers.
- Brochure/information development - Wayne and Ernie distributed a draft brochure developed for the Hunt's Mills Trail system. Commissioners discussed format and content and endorsed the brochure with the addition of the City seal along with the Conservation Commission web site address. Brochures can be available on the website with hardcopies located at trail heads.

### **New Business**

- Summer Commission Meetings - Commissioners agreed to hold the July 21 meeting at Boyden Heights Conservation Area at 6:00pm to conducted trail maintenance. It's likely the August meeting will be cancelled with a decision to be made at the July 21 meeting and work evening.

### **Commission Member Items**

- Jim reported on the status of legislation being considered this session in the General Assembly for state wide cesspool phaseout and amendments to the Freshwater Wetlands Act. (Note: both pieces of legislation passed at the end of the session.)
- Ernie reported that he has scheduled three (3) hikes at City open space areas as follows: Boyden Heights, August 15; Turner Reservoir Loop, August 29; and Hunt's Mill, September 12. All hikes are scheduled for Saturday mornings starting at 9:00am.
- Keith reported that the Seekonk Trails Committee has become active again and looking to advance a project to construct a bridge to span wetlands and the Runnins River on the East side of Arcade Avenue into the Turner Reservoir loop trail behind the Seekonk High School.

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

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 21st at 6:00 p.m. at the Boyden Heights Conservation Area.**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary