

# **East Providence Conservation Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**October 20, 2015**

East Providence City Hall

7:30 PM

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

**Members absent:** John Burrridge and Marie Esten

**Call to Order** - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

**Public present:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Review of Minutes** - The September 15 meeting minutes were reviewed with a motion to accept by E. Germani and seconded by W. Barnes. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes as read.

**Planning Department Update** - Wayne indicated that there were no new important project updates at this time.

**Correspondence** - Wayne reported that the City's official social media policy was issued to all City departments two weeks earlier. Essentially, it is a common sense policy for the posting of and distribution of materials on the City website and various social media outlets. City legal counsel had requested that all City boards and commissions be made aware of the policy.

### **Old Business**

- **Hunt's Mill Terrace Garden connector trail and work plan** - The Commission discussed plans for a new connector trail from the terrace garden going west and crossing the paved road and onto the existing red blazed trail to create a more direct link. The connector trail is in need of some improvements. The Commission scheduled a work day for Saturday, October 31st at 9:00 AM.

### **New Business**

- **Potential East Providence High School cross country trail development** - Commissioners discussed a proposed out-and-back cross country running trail layout plan starting from Hunt's Mill onto the Ten Mile River trail and up along the west side of Turner Reservoir crossing Route 152 and turning around at the Kimberly Ann Rock athletic fields. The running trail layout would require crossing Pleasant Street (Route 114A) and Newman Avenue (Route 152), which have relatively high traffic volumes. Commissioners concluded that the proposed layout presents logistical and safety issues. Thus, it was determined and recommended that an alternative proposal should be considered for the cross country team.
- **Additional mapping and brochure development** - Commissioners discussed using the winter period to complete updated PDF file format trail maps for Boyden Height Conservation Area,

Turner Reservoir, Hunt's Mill and Willet Pond. These maps will be posted on the Commission web page for easy public access and download.

- Website information on conservation properties - Commissioners discussed the addition of historical and natural history information for some of the City owned conservation properties. This topic will be further explored at a subsequent meeting.
- John Rose tribute - Commissioners were saddened by the news of Commission Vice-Chair John Rose's passing on October 12. John served many years on the Commission and will be missed. Commission members discussed several ideas to honor John's memory and his service to the Commission and the City. Further details will be discussed at a later meeting.

#### **Commission Member Items**

- Ernie suggested the possibility of planting flowering vines at the old fire tower at Hunt's Mill to attract butterflies and humming birds.
- Keith reported that the City had completed mowing and brush clearing on the sewer line easement area between Boyden Blvd. and the East Bay Bike Path.
- Jim advised Commissioners that a Rhode Island Sea Grant presentation on historic ship wrecks located at Green Jacket Shoals abutting Bold Point was scheduled for October 26 at the Tockwotton Home starting at 7:00 PM.
- Wayne indicated that the Commission should recruit more members to maintain future quorums (minimum of four members needed) and conduct Commission business.

**Adjournment** - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:24 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by L. Nik.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary