

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2015

East Providence City Hall

7:30 PM

Members present: Keith Gonsalves (Chair), Wayne Barnes (City Liaison), James Boyd (Secretary), John Burrige and Ernie Germani

Members absent: Marie Esten and Lorraine Nik

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

Public present: None

Public Comment: None

Review of Minutes - The October 20 meeting minutes were reviewed with a motion to accept as read by E. Germani and seconded by K. Gonsalves. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes.

Planning Department Update

- Wayne reported that Roger Williams University is studying the historic Caleb Williams cottage on the Hunt's Mill property to explore the potential reuse of the building as a community resource. The RWU study results will be available to the Commission when completed.

Correspondence

- Wayne suggested that the Commission issue a letter of support for the Sabin Point stormwater management project to facilitate the possible opening of a public beach for the City. It would be the first public beach opening north of Conimicut Point as a result of improving water quality conditions in the Providence River.

Old Business

- John Rose tribute - The Commission discussed ideas for honoring the long-time service of John Rose on the Commission. The most favorable suggestion is the planting of a new tree with a plaque to be located on City property, likely Hunt's Mill or Boyden Heights Conservation Area. The matter will be discussed at a later Commission meeting.

New Business

- Status of Commission membership - Commissioners discussed current members status and the need to reaffirm member appointment and term expiration dates.
- 2015 Annual Commission Report - Commissioners discussed the activities that were completed during the past year and the content for the upcoming annual report. Wayne will draft a report for Commission review and approval in the new year (2016).
- December meeting status - Commissioners discussed and determined that the regularly scheduled December meeting would be cancelled.

Commission Member Items

- Wayne indicated that the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan was nearing completion and will be submitted to the RI Emergency Management Agency.
- Keith reported that the Ten Mile River Watershed Council (TMRWC) had mowed trails and a portion of the property next to their new headquarters at the metal shed on the Hunt's Mill property. As previously reported the TMRWC is leasing the shed from the City.
- Keith reported that the TMRWC will be seeking state designation from the RI Rivers Council as the watershed council officially representing the Ten Mile River.

Reminder - The first meeting in 2016 will include the election of Commission officers as required by City by-laws.

Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:22 PM on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by J. BurrIDGE.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Monday, February 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary