

# East Providence Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2016

East Providence City Hall

7:30 PM

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

**Members absent:** Lorraine Nik

**Call to Order** - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**Public present:** Cheryl Vieira

**Public Comment:** Ms. Vieira indicated that she was interested in membership on the Conservation Commission.

**Review of Minutes** - Review of the November 17, 2015 meeting minutes was postponed until the March Commission meeting.

### **Planning Department Update**

- Wayne reported that site development continues at the Village on the Waterfront and Kettle Point projects located along the City waterfront on the Providence River, directly opposite the Port of Providence. Both are mixed-use residential and commercial projects being constructed on land formerly used for petroleum tank farm operations.

### **Correspondence**

- 2016 Land & Water Summit, March 19 at the University of Rhode Island.
- Northern RI Conservation District annual report and request for membership donation.

### **Old Business**

- Status of Commission membership - Commissioners discussed current members status and the need to confirm member appointment and term expiration dates. John Burridge's appointment status is unknown. J. Boyd indicated that he would prepare a table with membership appointment and expiration dates to help track Commission membership status for review at the next meeting.

### **New Business**

- Election of Commission officers - After discussion of potential nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary the following officers were nominated:

Chair - Keith Gonsalves

Vice Chair - Ernie Germani

Secretary - James Boyd

Following acceptance of individual nominations the Commission voted unanimously to approve the nominated slate of officers for 2016 on a motion to accept by M. Esten and seconded by J. Burridge.

- 2015 Annual Commission Report - Commissioners discussed the draft report as prepared by Wayne. Commissioners were complimentary of the report and suggested some minor editing and format changes. On a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by J. Burrige the Commission voted to approve the annual report with agreed upon suggested changes.
- 2016 Local Hikes and Events - Ernie discussed proposed dates for hiking events at City properties for 2016 based on the successful hikes of last year. These hikes will be cosponsored with the Providence County Hiking Club and held on Saturday mornings starting at 9:00am as follows: June 4 - Hunt's Mill (National Trails Day event with the Ten Mile River Watershed Council) at 9:00 am; August 20 - Boyden Heights at 9:00 am; and September 11 - Hunt's Mills at 11:00 am. The latter two hikes will be held in conjunction with RI Land Trust Days events.
- General Work Plan 2016 - Commissioners discussed potential work projects for the year to include: completing and compiling City trail maps for posting on the Commission website as PDF file format for downloading and printing; creation of a map box for installation at the Hunt's Mill sign board; and development of a comprehensive maintenance and trail plan for Boyden Heights Conservation Area.
- Narragansett Bay Commission Earth Day Grant and Earth Day Clean-Up - Commissioners discussed obtaining a tree to plant on the East Bay Bike Path adjacent to the Conservation Commission's Boyden Heights Conservation Area bench. If a tree that is appropriate for the area can be obtained, it will be installed as part the Commission's Earth Day clean-up, scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 9:00 am at Boyden Heights.

#### **Commission Member Items**

- Wayne noted that the Attorney General's Office would be holding an Open Meetings information session for all public bodies to aid in compliance with state laws concerning opening meetings
- Jim noted some damage to the Ten Mile River boardwalk at Turner Reservoir just before the dam. Information will be provided to the City Parks Department to facilitate repair.
- John reported that The Nature Conservancy was hosting a nature video at the RI School of Design and a Humane Society lobby day event at the State House on February 24 at 5:00pm.
- Keith reported that Barrington resident Sandra Wyatt was seeking interest for an invertebrate tracking project on the Annawamscutt Creek, which flows between Barrington and East Providence.

**Adjournment** - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:34 PM on a motion by M. Esten and seconded by J. Burrige.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary