



EAST PROVIDENCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



2013 Annual Report

Lorraine Nik, Chair

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The East Providence Conservation Commission remained active in the stewardship of our City's natural resources and conservation areas in 2013.

The Commission began the year with the installation of officers, re-electing Lorraine Nik as Commission Chair, John Rose as Vice-Chair, and James Boyd as Secretary. Additional commission members are Keith Gonsalves, John Burridge, Marie Esten, and City Liaison Wayne Barnes of the Planning Department. This remains a very engaged group of citizens and some excellent projects have been completed in recent years.

As City Liaison, Wayne Barnes provided monthly updates on City projects of interest to the Commission including major City development projects, Senator Whitehouse's large-scale waterfront clean-up initiative, the process for adoption of new FEMA coastal flood maps, and other pertinent Planning and Emergency Management initiatives. Keith Gonsalves monitored progress on the Omega Pond Dam Fish Ladder project and on activities of the Ten Mile River Watershed Coalition, and Jim Boyd kept the group informed regarding statewide coastal initiatives and legislation of interest at the State House.

On April 20, the Commission participated in Earth Day clean-up activities for the third year. The group continued last year's work at the Hunts Mills Historic Site "Terrace Garden" area. Trash was removed as were invasive vines and shrubs, and new Mountain Laurel plants were installed along the trail. Similar native plants that the Commission installed back in the fall of 2011 continue to do very well. The Commission will continue minor enhancements in this compact but very diverse natural area.

The Commission and the Ten Mile River Watershed Council supported the Seaconke Trails Committee's National Trails Day event on June 1. Commission members walked the route of the proposed accessible trail on Newman YMCA and Town of Seekonk property and assisted with trail maintenance. This trail will eventually connect with the City's Turner Reservoir Loop Trail, resulting in an extensive trail network for the recreational benefit of residents on both sides of our common border.

The Commission performed minor maintenance at the Boyden Heights Conservation Area throughout the year. In October, the group completed a small stairway to the raised wetland boardwalk to enhance safety and



Wetland Boardwalk Stairway Completed

access. Local residents have performed some trail maintenance as well, as the Conservation Area has become a source of pride in the Boyden Heights neighborhood. The Commission is investigating innovative ways to map the property and its trail network and display its interesting history including a brief period as an amusement park in the early 20th century.

The Conservation Commission looks forward to a busy and productive 2014 serving the City of East Providence and welcomes interested members of the community and other conservation interests to our meetings, which are scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise noticed) at 7:30 pm at East Providence City Hall. Meeting agendas are posted in the lobby of City Hall, with agendas and minutes of past meetings available on the RI Secretary of State's webpage and also on the Conservation Commission webpage, available on the City website, www.eastprovidence.com/ by clicking on Residents/Living, then Boards and Commissions, then Conservation Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Nik
Commission Chair

