



EAST PROVIDENCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



2014 Annual Report

Lorraine Nik, Chair

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The East Providence Conservation Commission is an active group of City residents who take pride in the stewardship of City natural areas, and the group continued on this mission in 2014.

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 East Providence Planning Department.

As City Liaison, Mr. Barnes provided updates on projects of local conservation interest including development projects, park and playground rehabs, FEMA initiatives including new flood maps, and other pertinent Planning and Emergency Management initiatives. Keith Gonsalves provided monthly updates on construction of the Paul Bettencourt Omega Pond Fish Ladder and on activities of the Ten Mile River Watershed Council, and Jim Boyd kept the group informed regarding statewide coastal initiatives and legislation of interest at the State House.



Commission Member Keith Gonsalves with freshly-planted Mountain Laurel at Hunts Mills Terrace Garden.

In April, the Commission participated in Earth Day activities for the fourth year. The group performed work including the removal of trash and invasive vines and shrubs from the “Terrace Garden” area of the Hunts Mill Historic Site, and also planted new mountain laurels in this area funded through an Earth Day grant from the Narragansett Bay Commission. Further work is anticipated in 2015 to protect these native plantings from the heavy invasive undergrowth common in the immediate vicinity.

Management of the City-owned Boyden Heights Conservation Area continues. The Commission performed routine trail maintenance, completed

a railed stairway to the popular wetland boardwalk, and water-sealed the boardwalk rails. Local residents continue to aid in maintenance of this fine natural area, including small bridge repair work and clearing of downed branches and other storm debris from trails.

The Commission provided support for the Natural Resources and Open Space Elements of the East Providence Comprehensive Plan update. Additionally, several Commission members attended the RI Department of Environmental Management Ten Mile River Water Quality Report meeting held on January 8.

The Conservation Commission looks forward to productive 2015 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. These documents also on the Conservation Commission webpage, available on the City's website, www.eastprovidence.com/ by clicking on Residents/Living, then Boards and Commissions, then Conservation Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Nik
Commission Chair

