

# East Providence Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2017

East Providence City Hall, Room A

6:30 PM

**Members present:** Keith Gonsalves (Chair), Ernie Germani (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes (City Liaison), James Boyd (Secretary), John Burrridge, and Cheryl Vieira

**Members absent:** None

**Call to Order** - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

**Review of Minutes** - The November 15, 2016 meeting minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by E. Germani and seconded by C. Vieira.

**Public present:** Roy Renier

**Public Comment:** Mr. Renier indicated he was attending the meeting in interest of the Commission's work.

**Correspondence** - Northern RI Conservation District Annual Report

### **Planning Department Update**

- Wayne reported that the Planning Department relocation within the 2nd floor at City Hall should be completed on or about March 1st.

### **Old Business**

- Hoppin Avenue Land Donation - Wayne reported that a City survey crew had conducted a site inspection of the parcel that has been offered to the City. The Commission had previously provided a favorable recommendation to the City Planning Department.
- 2016 Annual Report - Wayne advised the Commission that the Annual Report was distributed to the City Council and the RI Association of Conservation Commissions.

### **New Business**

- Election of Officers - J. Burrridge offered a motion to nominate Keith Gonsalves as Chair, Ernie Germani as Vice Chair and James Boyd as Secretary. The motion was seconded by C. Vieira. Members unanimously voted to accept and approve the nomination of Conservation Commission officers for 2017.
- 2017 Work Plan and Preliminary Event Schedule - Commissioners discussed the following projects and events:
  1. Construction of handrail for steps leading onto the Boyden Heights boardwalk will be scheduled for a Saturday morning work day this spring.
  2. Earth Day cleanup to be scheduled for Saturday, April 22 at Boyden Heights for 9:00am.
  3. National Trails Day on June 3rd at Hunts Mill for 9:00am in collaboration with the Ten Mile River Watershed Council.
  4. Land Trust Day walk at Boyden Heights at 9:00am on August 12.

5. Harvest Moon Walk in September in collaboration with the Ten Mile River Watershed Council.
6. Hunts Mill trail walk on the 2nd Sunday of each month starting in March through December at 1:30pm in coordination with the East Providence Historical Society. See: <http://ephist.org>.

### **Commission Member Items**

- J. Burrige had obtained Milkweed seeds (*Asclepias* sp.) and distributed many packets to Commission members for planting. John indicated that he had planted seeds on City property along Waterfront Drive.
- E. Germani advised members that the Newman Avenue bridge over the Turner Reservoir will be replaced and the roadway repaved starting this summer. The Turner Reservoir loop trail will be temporarily closed along Newman Avenue until repairs are completed in November of 2018. Updates will be posted here under travel advisories: <http://www.dot.ri.gov/travel/>.
- K. Gonsalves reported that a pedestrian bridge over the Runnins River has been installed as part of a trail system behind the Newman YMCA in Seekonk, MA.
- W. Barnes reported that he had contact National Grid regarding some clear cutting beneath the power lines parallel to the East Bay Bike Path. Possible erosion issue due to the steep slope just west of Veteran's Parkway. Wayne indicated that he would request National Grid to monitor and install erosion and sediment control as necessary.

**Adjournment** - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:22 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary