

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 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) and Cheryl Vieira

Members absent: John Burrridge

Call to Order - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Review of Minutes - The January 17, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by E. Germani and seconded by C. Vieira.

Public present: None

Public Comment: None

Correspondence

- South Kingstown Land Trust: Conservation for Pollinators Workshop, February 28 or March 1
- RI Land and Water Summit - March 11

Planning Department Update

- Wayne reported that the Planning Department relocation to the south side of the 2nd floor in City Hall has been completed.
- Wayne also reported that the City Hazard Mitigation Plan has been accepted and approved by FEMA.

Old Business

- Hoppin Avenue Land Donation - City survey crew completed a parcel boundary survey that was necessary for the property donation process to move forward.
- Utility line tree clearing - Wayne reported that he had contacted National Grid in regard to clear cutting beneath the power lines parallel to the East Bay Bike Path, which was discussed at last month's Commission meeting. National Grid expressed interest in correcting any potential erosion issues. Wayne will follow up with the utility company before the next meeting.

New Business

- Narragansett Bay Commission Earth Day Grant - Earth Day cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 22 at Boyden Heights for 9:00am. NBC will provide clean up materials (trash bags, gloves, etc.). Commissioners discussed displaying the Conservation Commission banner on the fence along the bike path during the clean up to bring awareness to our efforts. Establishment of an informal butterfly garden was suggested for the foot of the pathway adjacent to the bike path. Flower plantings would be avoided in mowed areas.
- Boyden Heights stairway railing construction is scheduled for Saturday, April 15 at 9:00am.

- Barrington Land Trust project with Waddington School - students are posting signs “Keep Our Creek Clean” along visible areas to bring awareness to the community.
- National Park Service event - “Birds of the Blackstone” is scheduled for March 27 at the Newman Congregational Church.

Commission Member Items

- E. Germani reminded members that a Hunt’s Mill hike will be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month starting in March through December in coordination with the East Providence Historical Society. National Park Service corporation service date is April 28. It was suggested that the Ten Mile River bike path corridor could be cleaned of trash from Daggett Park to Kimberly Rock. The Turner Reservoir loop trail has been blazed. Coordination is planed with the Seekonk Trail Committee and Seekonk DPW for trail markers to be installed along Newman and Arcade Avenues to aid hikers. Ernie also reported that all four East Providence trails have been posted on the ExploreRI website at: <http://www.exploreri.org/gtraillist.php>
- K. Gonsalves reported that an Eagle Scout is interested in a project. A suggestion was made to install a message board at Kimberly Rock. Herring migration counts will take place starting on March 26 at Hunt’s Mill fish ladder. The Ten Mile River Watershed Council will be training volunteers. Over 15,000 herring were counted last year at Hunt’s Mill.

Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:44 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary