

# East Providence Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2017

East Providence City Hall, Room A

6:30 PM

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

**Members absent:** None

**Call to Order** - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

**Review of Minutes** - The April 18, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously with corrections following a motion by E. Germani and seconded by J. Burrige.

**Public Attendees** - M. B. Dwyer

**Public Comment** - None

### **Planning Department Update**

- Rumford Rifle Range - Wayne reported that the Rumford Rifle Range munition study and remediation project is underway, and he will follow up with Weston Consultants on project status.
- Planning Director - Wayne reported that long-time Planning Director Jeanne Boyle has resigned and has accepted a position with the City of Pawtucket.

### **Correspondence**

- Marjorie Turner - Ms. Turner has requested a letter of support from the Commission for her forthcoming trail guide "Easy Walks in the Ten Mile River Watershed." Following discussion and agreement, the Commission Secretary offered to draft a letter of support for Commission members review and comment. The letter would be sent to Ms. Turner on Commission letterhead.
- RIACC dues request - The RI Association of Conservation Commissions sent their annual appeal seeking membership dues (\$100). Members agreed that since the Commission has no funding or budget, no dues would be sent to RIACC.

### **Old Business**

- Earth Day project - The Butterfly Garden was successfully planted at Boyden Heights and appears to be in good shape as of May 16.

### **New Business**

- National Trails Day - The June 3 activity will be held at Hunt's Mill from 9:00am-Noon with planned distribution of mulch along the trails.

### **Commission Member Items**

- Ernie reported that the Providence Country Day School hike at Hunt's Mill was cancelled on April 21 due to rain.
- Ernie also reported that a June 11 Great Outdoors day is planned at Hunt's Mills.
- Wayne reported that he had visited the National Grid utility clearing along Veteran's Parkway and noted it still needs attention and will contact them for corrective action.
- Keith reported that herring count at Hunt's Mill fish ladder this season was low compared to previous years and was likely a result of a very warm February that had fish migrating early and were missed by observers. He also noted the late March fish kill along the Turner Reservoir in mid-April.

**Adjournment** - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:31 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary