

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2017

East Providence City Hall, Room A

6:30 PM

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

Members absent: None

Call to Order - Chair Keith Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Review of Minutes - The September 19, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by E. Germani and seconded by K. Gonsalves.

Public Attendees - None

Public Comment - None

* Greg Burnett advised Commission members that he was recently appointed by the City Council to the Conservation Commission from Ward 1. This is Greg's first meeting as Commission appointee.

Planning Department Update

- Wayne advised the Commission that the City Planning Board had voted on September 25 to recommend approval of the proposed donation of the Conaty property on Hoppin Avenue to the City Council. The matter will now be scheduled on the City Council docket for review and acceptance.
- Wayne reminded Commission members that URI Landscape Architecture program will hold a public presentation of their Seekonk River sustainability and climate resiliency project on October 30 at 6:00pm at the Tockwotten Home. The URI team has taken particular interest in the Bold Point area.

Correspondence

- Announcement from the URI Landscape Architecture program regarding their public meeting on October 30 at 6:00pm at the Tockwotten Home.

Old Business

- Willet Pond trail maintenance - Members finalized details for the planned trail maintenance on Saturday, November 4 at 10:00am.

New Business

- Hunt's Mill terrace garden trail improvement - Members discussed the need to improve the trail access point starting at the gazebo and descending down the slope to the established trail. It was agreed to discuss further and plan for an early spring project to address slope stability and a low wet spot at base of the trail.
- Upcoming meeting schedule - Commissioners agreed to cancel the December meeting and the November 21 meeting will be the last Commission meeting of 2017.

Commission Member Items

- Jim discussed the recent Trustee meeting of the East Providence Land Conservation Trust (EPLCT) and the desire to collaborate more closely with the Conservation Commission (EPCC) and the Ten Mile River Watershed Council (TMRWC). Jim will serve as a liaison between the groups.
- Ernie reported that the new sand filter and fore bay as part of the stormwater treatment system is being installed at Sabin Point to improve water quality.
- Keith reported that he recently discovered an old railroad tie wall artifact near the Hunt Mill tail race way that was not previously noticed. He also indicated that the TMRWC was grateful that the East Providence DPW recently cleared trees and brush at Hunt's Mill near the Eldin Avenue entrance gate.

Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:21 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary