

# **East Providence Conservation Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**November 21, 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 6:32 PM

**Review of Minutes** - The October 17, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by E. Germani and seconded by J. Burrige.

**Public Attendees** - Barbara & Bob Westlake

**Public Comment** - The Westlakes advised the Commission that they had recently moved to East Providence and were interested in conservation matters.

### **Planning Department Update**

- Wayne advised the Commission that the City Council has on its 11/21/17 docket consideration for approval of the proposed donation to the City of the Conaty property on Hoppin Avenue.
- Wayne reminded Commission members that URI Landscape Architecture program had a public presentation of their Seekonk River sustainability and climate resiliency project for October 30 at 6:00pm at the Tockwotten Home. The URI team is investigating the shoreline between the Washington and Henderson bridges.

**Correspondence** - None

### **Old Business**

- Willet Pond trail maintenance - Commission members successfully completed clearing and maintenance along the pond trail on Saturday, November 4.
- Hunt's Mill terrace garden area - Members discussed the need to improve the trail access point adjacent to the gazebo. It was agreed to plan for an early spring project.

### **New Business**

- Status/timeline of Commission appointments - Current members are in good standing with J. Burrige and E. Germani in need of reappointment during 2018.
- Review of 2017 Conservation Commission Annual Report - Members reviewed and discussed the draft report prepared by W. Barnes. Commissioners were pleased with the draft and thanked Wayne for his work. Commissioners approved the report for finalization and filing with the City Council on a motion by J. Boyd and seconded by C. Vieira.
- 2018 Meeting schedule - W. Barnes prepared the regular 2018 meeting schedule of the Commission for filing with the Secretary of State office as required by state law.

### **Commission Member Items**

- Jim discussed his recent observation of the Newman Oak condition and proposed brush hog work at Bridgham Farm field. Jim emailed a copy of the East Providence Land Conservation Trust (EPLCT) proposal to Commission members.
- Wayne and Ernie reported that the Conservation Commission Facebook page is now better organized. See:<https://www.facebook.com/epconservation/>.
- Ernie advised members that he scheduled 2018 Hunt's Mill trail walks from March to December on the second Sunday of each month starting at 1:30 p.m. Also, the Boyden Heights trail walk will take place on August 11.
- Keith reported that Ben Cote had resigned from the TMRWC, and sixty 50-gallon drums of fire fighting foam will be removed from the TMRWC steel building at Hunt's Mill. He also reported that Bank of America volunteers helped him to create the "Rumford Garden" in the parking area turn-around in front of the Hunt's Mill pump house.

**Adjournment** - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:38 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary