

East Providence Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2018

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) and Cheryl Vieira

Members absent: Carissa Lord

Call to Order - Chair Keith Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

Review of Minutes - The January 16, 2018 meeting minutes were approved with edits following a motion by E. Germani and seconded by J. Burrige.

Public Attendees - None

Public Comment - None

Planning Department Update

- Updated “Boards and Commissions” regulations - Wayne advised the Commission that the City Council passed on January 16, 2018 amendments to Chapter 2 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of East Providence, Rhode Island, as amended, entitled “Administration.” The revised ordinances added new Sections 2-37 through 41 for requirements on listing Boards and Commissions on the City website and procedures for members appointment and removal based on merit.
- Conaty Land Donation - Wayne advised the Commission that Mr. and Mrs. Conaty have now withdrawn their donation offer to the City of property located on Hoppin Avenue.
- URI Landscape Architecture program: Seekonk River area land use study - Wayne reported the study has been completed and it includes a series of recommendations for the City and a proposal for public parks and pathways between the Henderson and Washington Bridges.

Correspondence - CRMC public notice for residential dock located on Terrace Avenue.

Old Business

- Turner Reservoir trailhead improvement: grant application and scope of work - Wayne reported that a grant application is being considered to fund the installation of a split-rail fence and a trailhead sign to direct walkers within the Pleasant Street parking lot to the established trail entrance. The issue has been walkers accessing the trail at a shortcut from the parking lot causing erosion of the slope onto the main trail.
- Commission social media update - Wayne and Ernie reported that the old Facebook page for the Conservation Commission has been replaced with a new Facebook page: @epconservation.

New Business

- Hunt’s Mill Trail Gazebo trailhead improvement proposal - Wayne reported that he had prepared and submitted a \$275 grant proposal to the Narragansett Bay Commission to build a proper stairway access at the Gazebo onto the trail loop at the bottom of the slope. The stairway would prevent erosion of the slope and provide public safety.

Commission Member Items

- Ernie reported that he would not be able to attend the April or May Commission meetings.
- Keith reported that he is now President of the Ten Mile River Watershed Council.
- Jim reported that he had recently observed two immature Bald Eagles along the Turner Reservoir. He also reported that a concerned citizen had cleared fallen dead pine trees obstructing the trail along the east side of the Turner Reservoir.

Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary