

# East Providence Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2016

East Providence City Hall

6:30 PM

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

**Members absent:** None

**Call to Order** - Chair K. Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**Review of Minutes** - The May 17, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as read on a motion by E. Germani and seconded by J. Burridge.

**Public present:** None

### **Planning Department Update**

- Wayne updated members on the Jones Pond project regarding the landscaping elements, as some trees and shrubs have been planted. A date has not yet been scheduled for volunteers to help plant annuals and herbaceous plants. Wayne will advise the Commission on a fall date.
- The trail maps depicting Boyden Heights; Hunt's Mill; Turner Reservoir; and Willet Pond have now been posted to the Commission's webpage. See: <http://www.eastprovidenceri.net/trailmaps>.

### **Correspondence**

- The Army National Guard (ANG) sent a letter to the City dated June 28 seeking comments on the proposed remediation of the old Rumford rifle range. The ANG will hold a community plan meeting to advise of activities at a date yet to be announced.

### **Old Business**

- Boyden Heights parking lot fence - Wayne reported that the City's grant request was not selected for funding by RIDEM. The City Planning Department will be seeking other sources of funding for the project.
- Hunt's Mill Festival and Hunt House July Open House recap - Wayne reported that about 30 folks showed up at the Commission tent where City trail maps were distributed. An August 14 trail walk starting at 1:30 pm is scheduled at the Hunt's Mill property.
- Hoppin Avenue proposed donation of land to the City - status - Wayne reported that a title search has been completed which will be followed by Planning Board and City Council review and approval.

### **New Business**

- Terrace Garden trail improvement - Commissioners discussed the need for mulching along the trail and some trimming to reduce over growth of invasive plants and weeds into the trail. Project will be scheduled for cooler weather later this fall or early spring.
- RI Land Trust events - Wayne and Ernie report dates of trail walks as follows: 9:00 am on August 20 at Boyden Heights, 11:00 am on September 11 at Hunt's Mill and 7:00 pm Harvest Moon walk at Turner Reservoir on September 16.

### **Commission Member Items**

- John suggested a project along Waterfront Drive from Dexter Road to Warren Avenue to cut and remove weeds and invasive plants along the roadway shoulder and plant wild flowers and milkweed to sustain butterflies and other native fauna. The Commission will discuss further at a subsequent meeting.
- Jim indicated that he was interested in whether the City was participating in a National Grid initiative to replace street light with LED light fixtures.

Note: Marie Esten had officially submitted her resignation from the Commission, as she and family moved to Massachusetts. Also, the August Commission meeting was cancelled.

**Adjournment** - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:24 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary