

# East Providence Conservation Commission

April 17, 2012  
East Providence City Hall - Room 306  
7:30 PM

## Meeting Minutes

**Members present:** Lorraine Nik (Chair), John Rose (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes, John Burrige, Keith Gonsalves, and James Boyd (Secretary)

**Public present:** Marie Esten - Marie was appointed to the East Providence Conservation Commission at the March 20 City Council meeting. Welcome Marie!

## **Call to Order**

Chair Nik called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

## **Review of Minutes**

After reviewing the meeting minutes of March 20, 2012, the Commission voted to approve them with minor editing on a motion to accept by J. Burrige and seconded by W. Barnes.

**Public Comment** - None

## **Planning Department Update**

Ten Mile River Fish Ladder update - Keith reported that approximately 2000 herring have been lifted over the dam to date. Construction on fish ladders is temporarily suspended during the fish migration period and will resume in late June.

Seaconke Trails Committee - Lynn Carlson at Brown University has developed a new trail map for the trail network. The Committee was awarded a grant to construct a handicapped accessible trail behind (north of) the Newman YMCA.

2012 Land & Water Summit - Wayne gave a presentation at the Summit featuring some of the work the Commission has completed at the Boyden Heights Conservation Area (*i.e.*, trail improvements and reconstruction of the boardwalk).

DEM Open Space Grants - The City was awarded grant funding for the Silver Spring playground and Jones Pond, a.k.a "Tranquility Place," but the City needs to come up with funding match to receive the state grant.

National Arbor Day - celebration at Squantum Woods on April 27.

FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map update - Wayne reported that new maps are being reviewed by the Planning Department and are expected to be adopted in 2013.

## **Correspondence**

2012 Land & Water Conservation Bond - DEM has distributed a Fact Sheet for the upcoming state bond referendum.

America the Beautiful - DEM has announced the 2012 Tree Grant program.

RI Watershed-Based Plan - DEM will be hosting a watershed planning meeting for the Barrington-Palmer-Warren River Watershed on May 10 at Barrington Town Hall. A portion of the Barrington River watershed, which includes the Runnins River, is located in East Providence. (Note: J. Boyd attended the meeting)

Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association - RIFMA will be holding their annual meeting on April 24.

Power of Place Summit - Grow Smart RI will be hosting the meeting on May 11 at the Providence Convention Center.

### **Continued Business**

Boyden Heights Conservation Area - Wayne obtained some paint removal spray to eliminate the graffiti on the bench along the bike path.

Hunt's Mill Terrace Garden project. The Commission made final plans for the Earth Day cleanup on April 21 starting at 9:00 am. The Commission will conduct trail maintenance, invasive vine and shrub removal, and remove any trash in the area.

East Providence Rain Garden Training and installation - Wayne reported that the URI Outreach Center conducted training and attendees installed two rain gardens, one at the Weaver House and one at the Weaver Library. See: [http://www.uri.edu/cels/ceoc/ResidentialRain\\_Program.html](http://www.uri.edu/cels/ceoc/ResidentialRain_Program.html) for more information.

### **New Business**

Boyden Heights Conservation Area - Wayne indicated that he had contacted the Public Building Department regarding building code specifications for the boardwalk stairway. The Commission would like to complete that project for this year.

### **Adjournment**

The Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM on a motion by J. Burrige and seconded by J. Rose.

**The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 7:30 pm in Room A (1st floor) East Providence City Hall**

Respectfully submitted, James Boyd, Secretary