

# **East Providence Conservation Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**October 18, 2016**

East Providence City Hall

6:30 PM

**Members present:** Keith Gonsalves, Chair; Ernie Germani (Vice Chair), Wayne Barnes (City Liaison), John Burridge.

**Public present:** Susan Brown

### **Call to Order**

Chair Keith Gonsalves called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment. The Commission welcomed Ms. Brown to the meeting.

### **Planning Department Update**

- Hoppin Avenue proposed donation of land to the City- Status: The property has been inspected for any environmental issues; none were found. The City's Engineering Division will perform a survey late in the fall or before snow season.
- Squantum Woods Interpretive Sign: Eaton Aerospace of Rumford offered a \$1,000 grant to support an environmental project in the city, with one day's notice. Wayne offered a few small projects at Boyden Heights and Hunts Mills. Ultimately, an interpretive sign panel proposal for Squantum Woods submitted by the Waterfront Commission was chosen for the funding.

### **Correspondence**

CRMC Assent Public Notice- 28 Water Street. This mailing from CRMC was an assent notice for boat slip repair and expansion at Al's Waterfront Restaurant.

### **Old Business**

Rhode Island Land Trust events wrap-up: the Boyden Heights event on August 20<sup>th</sup> drew about 10 people and encompassed the conservation area and the bike path northward to Watchemoket Cove, including views of the new developments taking place from the water side. Total distance was about 2 miles. The Hunts Mills event on September 11<sup>th</sup> drew at least 25 people, who also got to tour the Hunt House during a short rain delay.

### **New Business**

- Jones Pond project: There was a brief overview of this project; commission members and other from the community totaling about 20 people planted over 700 small native plants, did considerable weeding, and spread mulch. Some additional work (much less of it) was planned for October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Terrace Garden and Boyden Heights minor trail improvements: Wayne noted that there were a few small projects pending at these sites. Ernie suggested leveling a small part of the Terrace garden trail to eliminate an awkward side-hill section. This could be done with a

small quantity of lumber to create a short retaining wall. The beginning of the trail near the Gazebo could use some mulching to keep invasives from hiding the trail. These are likely to be Spring projects. At Boyden Heights, a very small erosion control issue is evident along the direct trail to the bike path just before it turns downhill. Two people could repair this with a nearby fallen branch and a rake; Ernie and Wayne will arrange a time before the winter arrives.

- Boyden Heights boardwalk stairway rail: A person with physical limitations attended the Boyden Height hike and was able to navigate the hilly trail, but not the short steep stairway to the boardwalk; and suggested a stairway rail. The Commission agreed and will add this to the task list for early 2017.
- East Providence Historical Society collaboration: The Commission will offer a hike when the John Hunt House is open to the public, which is the second Sunday of each month. Hikes will be weather and ground-condition permitting. Ernie is available for November and December dates.
- National Park Service collaboration- Ernie will lead hikes for the National Park Service within the Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor, which includes the Hunts Mills property, on an occasional basis. Congratulations to Ernie for this nice recognition from the NPS.

#### **Commission Member items**

- John B. was forwarded a map with the unmowed public land area along Waterfront Drive for the spreading of milkweed seeds. This will also be possible along the slope toward the northeast corner of the Honor Flight Park/Jones Pond property.
- Wayne found an 1850 map of the Town of Seekonk, when it included all of East Providence, in the Planning Department archives. Among the finds was that the cove at Boyden Heights, previously thought to be unnamed, was at that time called “Windsor Cove”. That designation has been added to the Commission’s Boyden Heights trail map.

**Adjournment** - The Commission adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:28 pm

The next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A at the East Providence City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne Barnes  
City Liaison to the Commission