

RI Forest Conservation Commission

IN PERSON MEETING

October 6, 2022

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

RI Department of Environmental Management

235 Promenade Street, Room 300 (3rd Floor)

Providence RI, 02908

Please note that members of the Commission are required to attend in person per RI's Open Meeting Act Requirement.

AGENDA

In attendance: David Gregg, Priscilla De La Cruz, Marc Tremblay, Robert Thurber, Tee Jay Boudreau, Christopher Riely, Cassie Tharinger, Kate Sayles, Scott Millar

1. Welcome
2. Approval of August, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Priscilla motioned to approved the minutes as is, Christopher Riely Seconded, all approved.

3. RI DEM Old Growth Definition Discussion

Discussion was had to make the agenda item for the next meeting to make a possible action rather than a discussion.

D. Gregg commented that we should take out 'wind storms' and replace with 'single event', and to take out #7 from the definition.

There was discussion about stand replacement events and retaining that language.

S. Millar commented that MA uses a similar definition, and include language that describes at least 50% of trees are close to max longevity of their species 'life'.

Questions came up on if this Commission will help inform the Senate Old Growth Committee?

Group agreed on 5 acres as a minimum forest size for Old Growth.

Discussion on including Old Growth and its characteristics in the definition.

RI DEM has contracted with the Northern Conservation District to work with URI on 1939-2022 data mapping to review potential old growth locations.

4. Brown University Student Assistance Update

K. Sayles, and M. Tremblay presented to the group the work the students have done and will be doing including a literature review to prioritize and a mapping exercise to go through the old growth characteristics data process.

They will be meeting with the students again on October 20th.

The group is expected to with on mapping and defining old growth areas, and one group will be looking at EJ areas impacted, and a third will be looking at forest product markets.

5. Most Important Forest Criteria Discussion

This is a major legislative charge for the Commission, and should be something to focus on for the next meeting. Commission to look at heritage forest types, and RIWAP forest types.

6. Commission Ethics/Open Meetings Training Discussion

Group can review the ethics/open meeting training on their own and we can decide to invite a representative for follow-up Q&A at a tbd date.

Commission will determine a meeting schedule for the 2023 year and post on the SOS site.

7. Forestry Business Tax Discussion

Group of logger and arborists will be meeting with the RI Farm Bureau to discuss.

8. New Business

Group will develop a public comment email address for individuals to email.

Group will revisit the important forest types discussion and action items.

Look at definitions of urban forestry

Next meeting set for December 1st, 2-3:30PM

9. Public Comment

D. Gregg received a public comment from Nathan Cornell which included multiple state old growth definitions, including his own definition.

10. Adjourn

P. De La Cruz motioned to adjourn, K. Sayles seconded, all in favor.

*Questions/Need Assistance? Please contact Tee Jay Boudreau (RIDEM) at
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Posted September 30, 2022