

RI Forest Conservation Commission

IN PERSON MEETING

August 24, 2022

3:00 PM – 4:30 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: Scott Millar, Kate Sayles, David Caldwell, David Gregg, Priscilla De La Cruz, Robert Thurber Jr., Christopher Riley, Tee Jay Boudreau

1. Welcome

2. Approval of June, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Kate Sayles motioned to approved the minutes, Scott Millar seconded the approval, all in favor.

3. RI DEM Old Growth Presentation

a. Fern Graves, RI DEM, gave an in-depth presentation on Old Growth Forests for the Commission (presentation will be presented as an attachment to the minutes)

i. Presentation included:

1. old growth characteristics , historic forests vs contemporary forests
2. Succession and forest development
3. Potential old growth forest spots in RI and how to identify these spots

4. Criteria For Defining RI's Most Important Forests
 - a. David Gregg motioned for the Commission to gather various old growth definitions from other states or organizations – Scott Millar seconded this motion, all in favor.
 - b. Kate Sayles described the possibility for Brown University students to do a 'deep dive' into an option for the realization of a mapping exercise and ground truthing old growth characteristics in RI. Kate motioned that she and Marc Tremblay would reach out an discussion options with the Students. Priscilla De La Cruz seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
 - c. After discussion on forest types present in RI, Scott Millar motioned to identify the key forest types in RI as a definitive list. Kate Sayles seconded, and all were in favor.

5. Appointment of Commission leadership roles
 - a. Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
 - i. Marc Tremblay nominated Scott Millar as chairperson, and David Gregg seconded this nomination, all were in favor.
 - ii. Priscilla De La Cruz nominated Kate Sayles as the Vice Chair, and Scott Millar seconded the nomination, all were in favor.

6. New Business
 - a. There was a brief discussion on looking at the tax benefits that RI Farmers received and investigating if RI loggers and Foresters may be due the same benefits as their work is listed under the RI agriculture definitions.
 - i. This may be a future endeavor the Commission takes on after looking at Old Growth.
 - b. Next meeting was scheduled for October 6th 2-3:30 at the RI DEM Room 300.

7. Public Comment
 - a. No Comment

8. Adjourn

Questions/Need Assistance? Please contact Tee Jay Boudreau (RIDEM) at
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