

RI Forest Conservation Commission

IN PERSON MEETING

December 1, 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.

MINUTES

Members Present: Kate Sayles, Tee Jay Boudreau, Priscilla De La Cruz, Scott Millar, Christopher Riely, Marc Tremblay, Cassie Tharringer, David Gregg

1. Welcome
2. Approval of October, 2022 Meeting Minutes
 - a. K. Sayles motioned to approve the minutes as presented.
 - b. M. Tremblay seconded the motion
 - c. All approved
3. RI DEM Old Growth Definition Discussion and Possible Action
 - a. There was a large discussion on changes to the Old Growth Definition including adjusting the language and including language from public comment.
 - i. D. Gregg motioned for reworked definition to be sent to the RI DEM Director for consideration.
 - ii. S. Millar seconded the motion
 - iii. All Approved
4. Brown University Student Assistance/Presentation Update
 - a. K. Sayles and M. Tremblay informed the FCC that the Students would be presenting in person at their class and to the RI Woodland Partnership via Zoom if members were able to attend either.
5. Most Important Forest Criteria Discussion and Possible Action

- a. S. Millar emphasized that most important forest criteria must include forestland and not other land use types
 - b. It was agreed that the FCC criteria be decoupled from the RI State Wildlife Action Plan.
 - c. Land within the criteria must be easily identifiable or mapped, and there needs to be a commitment to update.
- 6. Commission Ethics/Open Meetings Training Update
 - a. N/A
- 7. Forestry Business Tax Update
 - a. T. Boudreau updated the FCC on the Farm Bureau meeting and the work towards getting a 'natural resources' plate for Loggers and arborists.
- 8. New Business
 - a. FCC established the 2023 meeting schedule to be the First Thursday of every other month beginning in January from 1-3pm.
- 9. Public Comment
 - a. No Comment
- 10. Adjourn

Questions/Need Assistance? Please contact Tee Jay Boudreau (RIDEM) at teejay.boudreau@dem.ri.gov