

RI Forest Conservation Commission

IN PERSON MEETING

February 2, 2023

2:15 PM – 4:15 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, Marc Tremblay, David Gregg, Robert Thurber, David Caldwell

1. Welcome
2. Approval of December, 2022 Meeting Minutes
 - a. P. De La Cruz, motioned to approve the minutes as written, K. Sayles, seconded, all approved.
3. Meeting availability streaming Discussion and Possible Action
 - a. Discussion was had to begin to allow the FCC meetings to be hosted on Zoom to allow the public to attend the meeting who cannot make it in person.
 - b. The point was made that the current room does not allow for adequate meeting streaming and we will need to move it to another location if we were to allow this.
 - c. The FCC discussed creating an electronic mailing list to allow more of the public to be aware of the work we are doing and come to meetings.
 - d. S. Millar motioned to allow the FCC meetings to be available live via zoom, but to hold public comment for those in attendance, or to allow written testimony in lieu of in person comment. M. Tremblay seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

4. State Ethics Update

- a. State Ethics Board was sent FCC member information and members agreed to submit their own paperwork to comply with State Ethics requirements.

5. RI DEM Old Growth Definition Update and Possible Action

- a. Update to the definition – it was edited from last meeting and submitted to Director Gray for approval.
- b. It was approved by the Director.
- c. Next step in getting this and other works to the G.A. is still unclear, but will be worked out soon internally within DEM.

6. Most Important Forest Criteria Discussion and Possible Action

- a. Discussion on working on an interim definition that does not include the harder to gather data, but can be added later (soils mapping for most productive forest soils)
- b. Options discussed include Core Forests, what in urban areas to include, state heritage forest layers with the elimination of mezic forests and flood plain forests, that are either too broad, or already protected, the inclusion of well-head protection areas.
 - i. S. Millar motioned to include the Oak/Holly, and pitch pine/scrub oak, and well-head areas to the most important forest definition. D. Gregg seconded the motion, all in favor.
 - ii. This definition was crafted to help develop and interim definition that may be used for the purposes of legislation.

7. Public Comment

- a. NONE

8. Adjourn

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

Posted January 31, 2023