

# City of Providence

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

## CHAPTER 2006-40

**No. 336**      **AN ORDINANCE** IN AMENDMENT OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, CREATING A CONSERVATION COMMISSION BY ADDING ARTICLE XXVI TO CHAPTER 2, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION", AS AMENDED

*Approved August 9, 2006*

***Be it ordained by the City of Providence:***

**Section 1:** Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, entitled "Administration", is hereby amended by adding the following Article XXVI, entitled "Conservation Commission" to Chapter 2 of the Code:

Section 2-398. Creation and Purpose of Commission.

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws, Section 45-35-1, the City Council hereby creates a Conservation Commission, the purpose of which is to promote and develop the natural resources, protect the watershed resources, and preserve natural esthetic areas within the City. The commission shall conduct researches into its local land areas and seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print, and distribute books, maps, charts, plans, and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its work. It shall make and keep an index of all open spaces within the City, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps, and other wetlands for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of those areas. It may make recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, agencies, boards, commissions and departments for the better promotion, development, utilization, or preservation of open areas, streams, shores, wooded areas, roadsides, swamps, marshlands, and natural esthetic areas. It shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and file an annual report with the Council. It has power to appoint, subject to any personnel procurement program ordained by the City, clerks and other employees it may from time to time require.

No.

CHAPTER  
AN ORDINANCE

IN CITY COUNCIL  
FEB 20 2006  
FIRST READING  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON  
ORDINANCES  
*John M. Stebbins* CLERK

THE COMMITTEE ON  
ORDINANCES  
Approves Passage of  
The Within Ordinance  
*John M. Stebbins*  
Clerk

6-12-06 as amended

Councilwoman Williams, Council President Lombardi, Councilman Segal & Luna

Section 2-399. Appointment of commission members.

The commission shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council. The members of the commission shall be appointed for three (3) year terms, except the initial appointments of some of the members shall be for less than three (3) years to the end that the initial appointments shall be staggered and so that all subsequent vacancies shall not occur at the same time. In the event of a vacancy, interim appointments may be made by the appointing authority to complete the unexpired term of the position. Duly incorporated and existing wildlife, environmental, watershed, conservation, sportsmen's, horticultural, or like organizations may present to the appointing authority a list of citizens **who are residents of the city of Providence and have experience in the preservation of open areas, streams, shores, wooded areas, roadsides, swamps, marshlands, and natural esthetic areas** from which lists the appointing authority must select at least three (3) members of the commission **though not more than one representative may be selected from any single organization.**

Section 2-400. Meetings – Records.

All meetings of the commission are subject to the open meeting law, and any person or that person's duly constituted representative is entitled to appear and be heard on any matter before the commission before it reaches its decision. All records of its proceedings, resolutions, and actions are open to public view.

Section 2-401. Commission Activities

1. **Promote and develop natural resources, protect the watershed resources, and preserve natural esthetic areas within the city.**
2. Conduct research into local land areas and promote the coordination of activities by unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes.
3. **Advertise, prepare, print, and distribute books, maps, charts, plans, and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its work.**
4. **Make and keep an index of all open spaces within the City, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps, and other wetlands for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of those areas.**

- 5. Make recommendations for the better promotion, development, utilization or preservation of open areas, streams, shores, wooded areas, roadsides, swamps, marshlands, and natural esthetic areas.
- 6. Consult and confer with other statewide and regional conservation commissions with regard to new or existing information, policies, and issues as they pertain to the commission.
- 7. Attend and sponsor educational and awareness seminars relevant to conservation issues as they pertain to the purpose of the commission.
- 8. Serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and the City Council on proposals or projects concerning preservation of open areas, streams, shores, wooded areas, roadsides, swamps, marshlands, and natural esthetic areas.

Section 2-402. Staff assistance

Clerical assistance for the purpose of sending notices for meetings and hearing, receiving and sending notices to city agencies, and the keeping of minutes of the various meetings, shall be provided by the office of the city clerk. The Conservation Commission may request and receive technical assistance and information from city agencies and departments as they directly pertain to the role of the commission and the departments and agencies.

SECTION 2: The City Council will review this Commission in 24 months from passage.

SECTION 3: This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
**JUL 6 2006**  
**FIRST READING**  
**READ AND PASSED**  
*Ann M. Steen* CLERK

**IN CITY COUNCIL**  
**AUG 31 2006**  
**FINAL READING**  
**READ AND PASSED**  
*[Signature]* PRESIDENT  
*Ann M. Steen* CLERK

**APPROVED**  
*[Signature]*  
**MAYOR** 8/1/06