

Final Minutes  
Charlestown Conservation Commission  
January 23, 2025 at 7:00pm  
Town Hall Annex Meeting room

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Shirley Griffin called the meeting to order at 7:05pm
- II. **ROLL CALL** - Present: Shirley Griffin, Nick Testa, Steve Williams, Silvermoon LaRose;  
Excused: Karen Baldyga
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** - Laurel Spears
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Nick made a motion to approve the October 2024 minutes. Shirley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Voting on November minutes and November special meeting minutes tabled for February meeting.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS** - Discussion and/or potential action(s), Announcement(s), and/or vote(s)  
Invitation to be extended to Steve Stokes and Don Rathbone in a future meeting to discuss plan for fire protection/prevention/access on preserves. This could simply be a question to fire and rescue to inquire as to what the plan would be should a fire happen on one of the preserves. However, if there is a desire for conversations on this issue, we can pursue further and extend the invitations.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS** - Discussion and/or potential action(s), Announcement(s), and/or vote(s)
  - A. Budget - No expenditures this month. For February meeting we will request updates to what is left in the budget and then work to create a list of maintenance that needs to be completed to expend funds.
  - B. Work Orders - New or Existing - Requests have gone in for work orders, however notification of whether the work is complete or not is not being received. The process for submitting orders has been simplified but lack of communication makes it difficult to follow up on progress to know if requests are being fulfilled.
  - C. Other - On January 27th the town will discuss the Public Trees/Tree Committee and the potential for this to go under the auspices of the CCC. Our question is, is this a mandated ordinance of the state? How did this come into being? Is it already a sub-committee of the CCC and we are just adjusting who makes up the committee? If this is already under the CCC then we are in favor of the change as proposed. If not, we would prefer this not be placed under the CCC as another responsibility that we have not been given the means to support.
- VII. **REPORTS** - Discussion and/or Potential Action(s), Announcement(s), and/or vote(s)
  - A. Social Media - 948 followers. Minimal posting in the past months. If we want to continue this, we will need others to help support the running of it.
  - B. Preserve monitoring, managing, and or/maintenance of:
    1. Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve - nothing new to report
    2. Charlestown Moraine Preserve - nothing new to report
    3. Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve - Special meeting in November. Steve followed up with email to Bonnie to discuss needs. River trail is closing in, almost impassable. We are awaiting an estimate from Larlham to see if this should be kept open and will vote on it then.
    4. Richard Trails Preserve - nothing new to report
    5. Schoolhouse Pond Preserve - nothing new to report

6. South Farm Preserve - nothing new to report
7. Tucker Woods Preserve - Nick has visited, all is clear.

VIII. **MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Recommended that we create a calendar of trail visits (special meetings) to be held throughout the year. Add to new business next month. Also discuss opportunities for actual conservation activities we could host. Possible presenters?

IX. **ADJOURNMENT** - Nick made a motion to adjourn. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Silvermoon LaRose, Secretary

The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, February 27th, @ 7:00 pm at Charlestown Town Hall. The public is welcome to any meeting. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact 401-364-1210 at least three (3) business days before the meeting.