

Draft Notes
CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Town Hall Council Chambers REGULAR MEETING
October 28, 2021 at 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:03pm Lynn Macalister called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Lynn Macalister, Shirley Griffin, Silvermoon LaRose, Gary Gardiner, Karen Baldyga, Charles Connery, Anthony Feisthael all present

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

No guests this evening.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR September 30, 2021 MEETING

Will need to approve at next meeting because they didn't get distributed to everyone in advance.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve
No new updates, A.Feisthamel plans to check on the growth of the Japanese knotweed.
- B. Charlestown Moraine Preserve
L.Macalister went and cleaned parking area, replaced maps, debris at beginning of trail where branches came down - C.Connery and G.Gardiner will go check on it since storm.
- C. Richard Trails Preserve
L.Macalister visited today, stocked maps, visitors at the trail reported one fallen tree near beginning of trail, don't know what the rest of the trails look like - Julie and Rick (volunteers) offered to check trails, L.Macalister reached out to them to check on it
- D. South Farm Preserve Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve
G.Gardiner did some weed whacking of parking lot and picnic area - Town cut the grass sometime in September (towards the end of the month) - L.Macalister to go to South Farm.
- E. Sprague Preserve C.Connery and G.Gardiner walked it and took care of it what they could. Will return to finish.
- F. Schoolhouse Pond Preserve
L. Macalister visited today, two trees down. Someone needs to go and cut one tree, the other has already been moved. Mailbox and post that was installed has been removed. The whole thing was gone. They found it on tribal grounds along the road heading towards the Indian Church. They reinstalled it with more support to keep it in place a little further down the road. L.Macalister and A.Feisthamel are going to look at editing management plan to say "swim at own risk" instead of no swimming. Will vote on at future meeting. Citizen notified us of the spread of phragmites in the pond. They are young enough to be taken care of before they spread. L.Macalister to look into if we can remove and how.
- G. Tucker Woods Preserve
Purchase has gone through. The entire commission needs to go for another site walk. Need to set a date because we will have a quorum. We need to make notes on what

needs to be done and the order they should get addressed. Contact Cheryl Wiitala, the Nature Conservancy of RI, to join us on the walk through for some input. Date set for November 13 or 14 as special open meeting, TBD. Will need to post out when decided. C.Connery made mention that the GPS mapping and boundaries will need to be done before the leaves come back. L.Macalister to follow up with that.

H. Coastal Pond Commission

At next town council meeting they will propose a revision to the draft of the Coastal Ponds Ordinance Amendment and vote on whether to revise or send out for advertisement of a public hearing. Right of way subcommittee also met - they will be going back to the council with 3 sites for the town council to discuss improvements for parking/access

I. Conservation Commission Facebook page S.LaRose created 3 posts last month; there were 23 new page likes and 25 new followers in the last 28 days.

J. Draft Preserve Monitoring and Maintenance document

Requesting \$25,000 be placed in budget to support CCC work as we are outsourcing more than before because we now have 7 preserves to manage. Financial support is needed to maintain these properties appropriately. G.Gardiner made a motion to accept the Preserve Maintenance and Monitoring Working Document pending corrections discussed, seconded by A.Feisthamel. Passed unanimously. Lynn will send amended version to everyone via email.

VI. ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS

At the September special meeting, the CCC agreed that we were not interested in applying for a grant for more open space. Despite that, the Town Council has applied for a \$400,000 open space grant for acquisition of a new property. The CCC has not been consulted. The CCC will follow up with additional information as it becomes available.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

November 2021 and December 2021 meeting dates - Karen made a motion to consolidate the November and December meeting to December 6th. seconded by Charles - unanimously passed

X. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENT

none

XI. ADJOURNMENT

C.Connery made a motion to adjourn the meeting, G.Gardiner seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

The next regular meeting will be tentatively held on **December 6, 2021, at 7:00 PM Town Hall Council Chambers**. The public is welcome. 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 prior to the meeting.