

Draft Minutes
Conservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 24, 2022 7:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

- I. CALL TO ORDER** - Lynn Macalister called the meeting to order at 7:06pm
- II. ROLL CALL** - Present: Lynn Macalister, Silvermoon LaRose, Karen Baldyga, Shirley Griffin, Charles Connery, Excused: Gary Gardiner, Anthony Feisthamel
- III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS** - 2 guests, Deb Carney and Grace Klinger
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 9, 2021** - Shirley Griffin made a motion to approve the December 9, 2021 minutes. Karen Baldyga seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve** - L. Macalister reported that the property looks great, Japanese knotweed has spread into swamp area, will need to be addressed in the spring.
 - b. Charlestown Moraine Preserve** - Property needs a dawn to dusk sign. L. Macalister looking in to this.
 - c. Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve** - L. Macalister tagged 38 trees for addressing, Larlham went yesterday and started but needed to go back, work is almost completed. Major tree, large oak down by the river, will have Larlham take that tree down as well. Smaller field will be taken care of later by Larlham, will clear area first and then return to cut down invasive swallow wart, most likely in May. Property needs a dawn to dusk sign also.
 - d. Richard Trails Preserve** - L. Macalister ordering signage to better mark trail directions. Larlham has removed 2 trees. No dumping sign has been put up by Alan Arsenault, Department of Public Works. Property needs a dawn to dusk sign also.
 - e. Schoolhouse Pond Preserve** - L. Macalister reported that mailbox went missing again. Commission unanimously agrees not to replace. Town manager was notified and they are keeping an eye on it, may reach out to tribe. Property also needs a dawn to dusk sign.
 - f. South Farm Preserve** - S. LaRose walked through at the end of January after storm, no significant damage. L. Macalister also reported that volunteers Rick and Julie Melvin did a walk through and cleared areas of the path making it wider and reducing overhanging branches.

- g. Tucker Woods Preserve** - Timberhomes Vermont sent quote for kiosk \$2,600, delivery \$459, repeat customer discount of \$75, Total = \$2,984, does not include plexiglass. L.Macalister will install plexiglass afterwards. Larlham will install again, cost around \$400. Motion to approve purchase and installation of kiosk was made by Charles Connery, seconded by Shirley Griffin. Motion passed unanimously. Parking lot for 6 cars at Tucker will be designed and put in by Alan Arsenault, Department of Public Works.
- h. Coastal Pond Commission** - L.Macalister reported that the council gave the go ahead for the engineering surveys for feasibility for three access areas: Creek Bridge, Charlestown Beach ramp, and Town Dock.
- i. Conservation Commission Facebook page** - S. LaRose reported that the Facebook page now has 409 followers, gained 32 new page likes this month. Commission only created two new posts this month. Ideas welcome for ways to increase posts. Suggestions: inspirational quotes around conservation, book recommendations around ecology, articles of interest. S. Griffin recommended inviting people on the Charlestown wire page.

VI. ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS - none

VII NEW BUSINESS

- a. CRMC Notices** - none
- b. Open Space DEM grant application** - L. Macalister spoke with Jane in Planning Department and the contact at DEM has stated that the announcements for the current grant round will be decided late February or early March. More information will be provided later. If it does go through, we will do an assessment of the new property as we did with Tucker.
- c. Recreation Department** - L.Macalister spoke to Vicky in the Parks & Rec Department about including us in the spring book. L.Macalister will send her information to include each of the preserves. This will offer more awareness of the preserves and encourage others to use. On Earth Day, the Tarzan Brown Deerfoot race will be held in conjunction with Earth Day event. CCC was asking to have a booth or display. L.Macalister to investigate what we had at the last booth and bring that information back to the next meeting.

VIII. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS -

- a.** Budget, L.Macalister went to the town council meeting. Deb Carney reported that the council voted to support putting money into the CCC budget for clearing the trails, maintenance, etc. however a specific amount was not stated. L.Macalister submitted a budget for the CCC to the budget commission. L.Macalister was told it would be taken into consideration and she will have an invitation to go before the budget commission to advocate for the funds needed.

- b. Earth Day - Friday April 22. We did not do anything last year. C. Connery thinks we should think of ideas of something more community active that we could do for Earth Day this year and bring them back to next months meeting to decide upon. L.Macalister would like to coordinate with other departments/groups if possible. Rec Department contacted L.Macalister about possibly doing something in spring for Farm Day. Could this potentially be coordinated as an Earth Day event? Perhaps an open house event or cleanup event at South Farm on Earth Day.

VI. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENT - After technical difficulties, guest Grace Klinger was finally able to connect and gave some insight into topics brought up at the meeting. She reminded C. Connery that the Kiosk at Sprague never had a roof and that's why he and Gary had to make one for it. She also mentioned that it was the two kiosks at Moraine and South Farm that were made by Timber Home. She reminded L. Macalister that Tewksbury is the last name of the contact at URI assisting with the swallow wart and that Alan Arsenault is the full name of the DPW Director for inclusion in our minutes.

VII. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn made by Shirley Griffin. Motion was seconded by Karen Baldyga. Motion passed unanimously and meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday February 24, 2022 at 7pm

The public is welcome to any meeting of the Charlestown Conservation Commission. 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.