

Draft  
CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Thursday, April 28, 2022 7:00 pm  
Charlestown Town Hall  
REGULAR MEETING

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Lynn Macalister called the meeting to order at 7:04pm
- II. ROLL CALL - Present: Lynn Macalister, Shirley Griffin, Silvermoon LaRose, Karen Baldyga, Charles Connery Excused: Gary Gardiner, Anthony Feisthamel
- III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS - Hon. Deb Carney, Nicholas Testa; Deb Carney made a public comment that the budget hearing is 7pm Monday May 2nd in the Council Chambers, CCC budget was reduced by \$2100, page 13 line item 01 .740.5020.000, \$4600 was requested but CCC was only given \$2500
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR March 24, 2022 - L.Macalister made a motion to accept the minutes as written, S.Griffin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. OLD BUSINESS
  1. Charlestown Preserve Geocaches - Nothing new to report
  2. Open Space DEM grant application- Carl Richard property, nothing new to report
  3. Tucker Woods Preserve
    - a. Kiosk - S.Griffin made a motion to approve \$850 payment to Larlham to install Kiosk, K.Baldyga seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
    - b. Formal Survey has been completed, L.Macalister to send a copy to all CCC members.
    - c. Parking lot - L.Macalister reported that Steve and Alan went on a site walk, site has been marked off, DPW will clear area, bring in gravel, put up some kind of barrier so cars will stay in lot. Will possibly take two weeks. Guest Nicholas Testa reported that it has already been cleared, he saw it today.
    - d. Road Sign – L.Macalister reported that the purchase order has been sent to the company, waiting for mock up then L.Macalister will approve, hopefully ready the last week in May for installation. Boundary signs are needed for Tucker, \$250 quoted for boundary signs from VOSS. C.Connery made a motion to approve spending the \$250 to purchase the signs from VOSS, S.Griffin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
    - e. Intermittent stream crossing is needed, CCC members will address.
    - f. Trail map draft was sent to CCC members by L.Macalister for review. This map shows the new trail, one mile round trip. There is also potential for future trails but additional funding would be needed to create these as some trees will need to come down to make safe. There are also some additions to be made like demarkation of the intermittent stream. Grassland should be renamed field.
    - g. L.Macalister reported that there is a proposal by the intern working for Charlestown to research and write history and information for Tucker’s map for updates to brochure, website, explore RI, All Trails, etc., and to create the press release at a rate of \$20 for approximately 20 hours max, total not to exceed \$400 for consultant to

create this for CCC. Guest Deb Carney believes this may propose a conflict of interest. Much of the information needed may already be available in the planning department so there may not be significant research needed. Suggests reaching out to a volunteer to do this instead. C.Connery is going to reach out to a past volunteer to see if they can do this work for us at no cost to the CCC. L.Macalister will also look into other individuals who may be willing to assist with this work.

4. Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve- L.Macalister reported that this property is all fine but need to continue being checked for control of the Japanese knotweed.
5. Charlestown Moraine Preserve- C.Connery reported trail was clean and all looked well but perhaps some area needs widening. Possibly can be addressed during spring cleanups.
6. Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve- S.LaRose reported trail was clean but one area has trees down across the trail and will need to be removed with a chainsaw. C.Connery will take care of it.
7. Richard Trails Preserve- S.Griffin and L.Macalister walked this property, reported that no further work was needed. They clipped for sight line to trail marker and a stump will be removed. L.Macalister will take care of it.
8. Schoolhouse Pond Preserve- K.Baldyga reported that there are two trees down along the path that will also need a chainsaw to remove. C.Connery will take care of that as well.
9. South Farm Preserve- L.Macalister reported she and volunteer did 2 hours of clipping on the trail. No further work is needed except DPW mowing in May.
- 10.Coastal Pond Commission report- No meeting - lack of quorum
- 11.Conservation Commission Facebook page - S.LaRose reported that the CCC has shared 13 new posts since last month's meeting, gained 18 new followers, and has a total of 537 total followers to date. Much of the posts were around Earth Day and the CCC Challenge. 3 entries so far. That ends on Saturday.
- 12.Well Water Workshop - no updates
- 13.Earth Day- Tables to be provided, bring your own chairs, set up a display of maps, banner, brochures, and prize for Take a book for a walk, sign up sheet for "friend of conservation" volunteers
- 14.Caches-ERROR

#### VI. ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS

1. Setup meeting date for our yearly Town Open Space Survey to be set some time in May, Request Volunteer Hon. Grace Klinger to go along to assist.
2. Set meeting dates for Community Spring clean ups of the town owned Preserves - Not needed after review of trails
3. Budget \$6,790.17 left in both accounts and about \$6,000 will be needed for future items - trail signs, hats & safety vests, Land & Water summit for CCC members; Mowing and maintenance of trails; Proposed FY 2022-23 budget is \$19,080 for trails and field maintenance and \$2,500 for CCC account \$21,580 total; CCC members encouraged to attend budget meeting

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. CRMC Notices- None

**2. South Kingstown Conservation Commission initiative banning nips- L.Macalister asked guest Deb Carney if we have a ban on plastics in town. Deb reported that we do not have an official ban but businesses have voluntarily done this. No action taken.**

**VIII. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS - C.Connery asked how many friends of Conservation we have. L.Macalister said probably around 20. C.Connery suggested we invite them to attend a meeting and have refreshments for them. All agreed this was a good idea so we will put this on the agenda to vote on it in May.**

**VI. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENT**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT - C.Connery made a motion to adjourn. S.Griffin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm**

**The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday May 28, 2022, 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.