

Draft Minutes
CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday July 13, 2023,
7PM Charlestown Town
Council Chambers

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Lynn Macalister called the meeting to order at 7:16pm.
- II. **ROLL CALL** - Present: Lynn Macalister, Silvermoon LaRose, Shirley Griffin, Charles Connery; Excused: Nicholas Testa
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** - Town Council Liaison Grace Klinger
- IV. **TOWN COUNCIL LIASON TO THE COMMISSION** remarks: Grace Clinger - compliment on presentation to town council on the open space properties, most notice these have ever gotten and now being addressed
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Lynn made a motion to approve the May 25, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Charlie. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **REPORTS:**
 1. Resignation of Commission Member Anthony Fiesthamel and Rick Melvin - both positions have been posted; thank you's to be sent; there is an application that the town council will vote on next meeting
 2. Social Media - up to 698 followers
 3. Preserve monitoring, management and/or maintenance of:
 - Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve- needs brush cutting of Japanese knotweed - Shirley made a motion to notify DPW that this needs to be addressed. Charlie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Charlestown Moraine Preserve- 3 weeks ago it was checked, no further updates
 - Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve- work was done to the preserve to address the swallow-wort, grass cutting, emergency trees taken care of
 - Richard Trails Preserve- Lynn visited, red trail and some of pink trail need brush cutting and requires handheld brush cutters; additionally erosion concerns - continue to monitor; Charlie offered to take care of brush cutting
 - Schoolhouse Pond Preserve- Community member that runs the trail and provides updates hasn't reported anything this month; DPW took care of tree that came down and blocked the road
 - South Farm Preserve- Paths cut, cemetery headstones fixed by Charlestown Historical Society; URI researchers Lisa & assistant Lexi doing further research on the property, set up test plots, providing feedback on management of swallow-wort, to hold open community 'moth night' in late August; fields mowed early July
 - Tucker Woods Preserve- Nothing at the preserve has been touched but Yellow and blue trails still look okay, orange trail needs maintenance if/when we get ok from DEM; DEM Tucker Woods Complaint Status - they went out four weeks ago and said it would be a couple of weeks to get the report. Lynn spoke to staff and was told that nothing more is to be done there on any of the trails as we await the report from DEM. Grace recommends speaking to Acting Town Administrator about closing Tucker Woods Preserve until review is complete for the safety of the community as the trails cannot be maintained while awaiting the report.
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS –**

- Awarding of Bid- Purchased Services Trails, and Field Maintenance - Larlham Landscape Construction Co. was the sole bidder and received the contract. From now on, if a job needs to be done the Charlestown Conservation Commission will make a motion to address the issue. If the motion passes, the request along with the minutes will go to DPW and they will take care of all the rest.
- Comments from the Town Council's May 22, 2023, meeting, as they relate to recommendations from the Conservation Commission concerning the Town's Open Space properties - Lynn went to the town council meeting and it was decided that the attorney would assess and provide report which has since taken place. A discussion of the report was held at the town council on Monday. Matter is still under review by the town council. For next month, conservation commission should decide what properties to prioritize to give those suggestions to the town council.
- Spotted Lanternfly presentation and kiosk notices update. - Spotted Lanternfly presentation is now scheduled for September 20th at 6pm to be held at the Cross Mills Library. Library and Silvermoon are working together to create a flyer to share. Should be ready before August. Kiosk all have the spotted lantern fly card to keep public aware.
- Well Water Workshop reminder - Wednesday at the 26th at Cross Mills Library this will take place
- Comprehensive Plan changes - Lynn was informed that this was not a priority at this time so we can put off to focus on more pressing needs. Silvermoon made a motion to table this discussion to the next meeting. Shirley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Other - Town Council is moving forward on the purchase of property that could become conservation land. More information to follow as the process moves forward.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Other - none

IX. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

x. ADJOURNMENT - Shirley made a motion to adjourn. Lynn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 8:27pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Silvermoon LaRose, Secretary Charlestown Conservation Commission

**The next regular meeting will be held Thursday, August 24, 2023, 7:00pm
Charlestown Town Hall Council Chambers**

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.