

Draft Minutes

CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday June 23, 2022 7:00 pm

Charlestown Town Hall

REGULAR MEETING

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** : 7:05pm L.Macalister called the meeting to order
- II. **ROLL CALL: present** - Charlie Connery, Lynn Macalister, Karen Baldyga, Silvermoon LaRose, Shirley Griffin present; excused - Gary Gardiner, Anthony
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS** - Deb Carney
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR May 26, 2022** - Only two of the commissioners were present at the last meeting so the vote will be tabled till next month
- V. **OLD BUSINESS** - Discussion and possible actions regarding: L.Macalister reported that Tick Signs are up at each preserve, Each kiosk has documentation of RIDEM however not all of those properties have RIDEM funding so those signs that are not applicable need to be removed; L.Macalister will check and remove as needed
 1. **Tucker Woods Preserve** - L.Macalister recalled that approximately 40 people attended the opening event; Lynn and volunteer Mitch Macalister finalized the kiosk materials, volunteer Nick Testa mowed and cut the brush back, L.Macalister added yellow trail markers, road sign was picked up by Anthony Feisthamel and installed with the help of volunteer Mitch Macalister, Gary Gardiner and Anthony Feisthamel hung signage along the road; all this was done in preparation for the opening event which was a large success
 2. **Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve** - Volunteer Steven Eaves picks up and disposes of trash on the property weekly; Japanese knotweed still needs to be addressed
 3. **Charlestown Moraine Preserve** - June 6 there was vandalism of the road sign occurred, stakes was pulled out and sign removed, L.Macalister reported to the police. L.Macalister found the sign in the woods and brought it to DPW and they were able to repair and replace; Larlham is still needed to clear brush from back trail, L.Macalister will call and try to have it done before June 30th so we can utilize funds already approved; C.Connery and G. Gardiner removed brush from other areas
 4. **Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve** - Larlham brush hogged trails and parts of fields under L.Macalister's oversight, cost was less than originally estimated; Charlestown Land Trust asked if they could put a bench in the large field dedicated to Karen Jarett, they would cover the cost and installation - discussion was held and it was decided that we cannot approve at this time because

we do not have a policy in place for these requests, however the CCC will research policies for this so we can create something and vote on it.

5. **Richard Trails Preserve** - Parking lot cleaned, maps refilled, great people using the trail
 6. **Schoolhouse Pond Preserve** - Parking lot cleaned, maps refilled, G.Gardiner and C.Connery went fishing and removed deadfalls while they were there
 7. **South Farm Preserve** - Estimate being redone for mowing of the pass, URI black swallowwort moths - URI interns studying, feeling positive; parking lot cleaned, maps replaced; C.Connery and G.Gardiner were there today and weed wacked around parking lot and tried to clear overgrowth of boulders. L.Macalister was asked to have Larlham clear the overgrowth over the rocks so no one backs in to them.
 8. **Coastal Pond Commission report** - Deb Carney reported on updates, looking for way to improve coastal access but none of the potential locations have worked out thus far, will revisit
 9. **Conservation Commission Facebook page** - shared 15 new posts over the course of the last two months, 567 followers (30 more from last report)
 10. **Well Water Workshop** - S.Griffin reported that it will be held Thursday July 21 6-7pm at Cross Mills Public Library, will share flyer with S.LaRose to post on Facebook
- VI. ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS- Discussion and possible actions regarding:**
1. **Meeting date for our Annual Town Open Space Survey** - S.Griffin and L.Macalister will go out to conduct the survey next Wednesday
 2. **CCC monitoring and management of Town owned open space and preserves** - L.Macalister met with the town manager on June 1, 2022 regarding duties and responsibility of the CCC and possible solutions were discussed; Does the CCC want to become purely advisory? Do we want to remain a working commission?; Deb Carney read Chapter 11-7 of the Charlestown Code of Ordinance that defines the role of the CCC and L.Macalister noted that this does not align with the Charlestown Comprehensive Plan 2021; Deb Carney stated that the Comp Plan would need to be amended if we were to change the role/duties of the CCC; Discussion was held around what the CCC feels is appropriate and manageable;
 3. Tasks that need to be done:
 - a. **Update Preserve maps and back of map information** - First priority
 - b. **Update Town website CCC general information and preserve information** - Can be done once the maps are completed

- c. **Update Kiosks Information with “Visit our other preserves” map, geocache information** - Can be done once maps are completed
- d. **Add Information on Preserves to the quarterly Recreation Booklets** - table for next meeting
- e. **Update current preserve management plans and develop template for future preserves** - table for next meeting

K.Baldyga made a motion to ask the URI Intern to update the GIS for all the preserves and create the trail maps and to create a map of the town with all the CCC locations. Seconded by C.Connery. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. **CRMC Notices** - none

VIII. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS - Deb Carney reported that a woman offered to sell property on South County Trail and New Biscuit City Road, 2.1 acres on the Pawcatuck River, offering to town for \$125,000, would be a possible kayak launch area - town could use the ARPA funds to purchase this property, just letting us know that this is a potential property that would fall under the CCC. The CCC is interested in this property.

VI. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENT - none

VII. ADJOURNMENT - K.Baldyga made a motion to adjourn the meeting. S.Griffin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday July 28, 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.