

Final Minutes

CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 22, 2024

Town Hall Town Council Chambers

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Lynn Macalister called the meeting to order at 7:01pm
- II. **ROLL CALL** - Shirley Griffin, Steve Williams, Karen Baldyga, Silvermoon LaRose, Lynn Macalister, Nicholas Testa
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** - none
- IV. **TOWN COUNCIL LIASON TO THE COMMISSION REMARKS** - On the agenda, they will appoint someone
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Steve made a motion to approve the January 25, 2024 minutes. Shirley seconded the motion. 4 approved, one abstention (Karen).**
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS** – Discussion and/or Potential Action(s), Announcement(s) And/or Vote(s)
 1. FY24 and FY25 Budget 690.6065 and 74.5020 - Treasurer said we can use the 74.5020 account (approx. \$3,847.44) for maintenance (purchase services) - Needs now to new budget include: approx \$1000 for trail mowing at South Farm (May & June); Brush Hogging Tucker; Sprague Brush Hog field \$1000 (March) + and paths with Brush Hog \$1000 (June); Weedwack Morraine \$1000 & Richards \$750 as needed - Additional needs: Bench for Sprague, Earth Day, Community Cleanup \$150, picnic tables at South Farm and Richards, Open Space signs need posts and hardware, URI conference, kiosk maps, perenial brochures; **Silvermoon made a motion to approve up \$3500 to prioritize Community Day materials, Earth Day materials, South Farm trail mowing, weedwack Morraine; Sprague brush hog without the field. Karen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**
 2. Schedule yearly monitoring - Shirley, Lynn, and Steve will lead the monitoring. Lynn will post out for any community to join in. Scheduled for March 13, 2024 at 9:00am.
 3. Ideas for Earth Day Festival @Niniget Park - Saturday, April 20th, have magnets to hand out - decorate a canvas tote bag; **Nick made a motion to approve spending up to \$50 for tote bags for craft. Karen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.** Others will bring additional materials needed. Volunteers Lynn, Karen, Nick, possibly Shirley, Steve, and Silvermoon. Silvermoon will make flyer that we are participating.
 4. Other - Silvermoon to make flyer for community cleanup days - something that can be updated annually.
- VII. **NEW BUSINESS** Discussion And/or Potential Action(S), Announcement(S) And/or Vote(S)
 1. Other - none
- VIII **REPORTS:** Discussion and/or Potential Action(s), Announcement(s) And/or Vote(s)
 1. Social Media - up to 851 followers (27 - increase); 2 posts; Silvermoon to post a call for volunteers to serve on the CCC (we have one seat open that needs to be filled)
 2. Preserve monitoring, management and/or maintenance of:
 - Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve - none
 - Charlestown Moraine Preserve - parking lot cleaned; no updates
 - Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve - no updates
 - Richard Trails Preserve- parking lot cleaned; no updates

- Schoolhouse Pond Preserve - no updates
- South Farm Preserve - DPW will follow the mowing plan as detailed on the attachment.
- Tucker Woods Preserve - looking good

IX MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

X ADJOURNMENT - Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shirley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm

The next regular meeting will be held Thursday March 28, 2024 @ 7:00 pm Charlestown Town Hall Council Chambers. The public is welcome to any meeting. 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.

Appendices:

- A. Email to Lynn Macalister from Patrick Gormley re: budget allowances
- B. Email to Lynn Macalister from Alan Arsenault re: maintenance of south farm preserve
- C. Proposed Budget document

Respectfully Submitted by,
Silvermoon LaRose, Conservation Commission Secretary

From: Lynn Macalister <lynnandmitch@hotmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Conservation Commission
Date: February 22, 2024 at 8:33 PM
To: silvermoon LaRose slarose@tomaquagmuseum.org

LM

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From: Patrick Gormley <pgormley@charlestownri.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 4:15 PM
To: Lynn Macalister <lynnandmitch@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Conservation Commission

Yes, I think that would be an appropriate use of those funds.

From: Lynn Macalister <lynnandmitch@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:50 PM
To: Patrick Gormley <pgormley@charlestownri.gov>
Subject: Re: Conservation Commission

No problem. That makes our over draft about 500 now. Do you think we could use some of that account for taking care of paying Larlham? We still have 3 months of FY24 left:/ and we have Spring maintenance. Hopefully no more dangerous trees!

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From: Patrick Gormley <pgormley@charlestownri.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:43:44 PM
To: Lynn Macalister <lynnandmitch@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Conservation Commission

We will make those corrections, thank you for pointing them out.

From: Lynn Macalister <lynnandmitch@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 3:42 PM
To: Patrick Gormley <pgormley@charlestownri.gov>
Subject: Re: Conservation Commission

Patrick
I found a few errors. These items should be listed in 740.5020 not in 620.6065
Entry 3200 for Voss signs and shipping \$163.75
Entry 2219 Timber homes shipping \$175 and display covers \$500
Lynn

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From: Patrick Gormley <pgormley@charlestownri.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:38:34 PM
To: Lynn Macalister <lynnandmitch@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Conservation Commission

Hi Lynn,

That is correct, I am the guy to get that information to you. Please see attached for the requested. If you ever need anything else, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Have a great day,
Patrick

Patrick Gormley
Treasurer
Town of Charlestown
401-364-1235 ext. 5990
401-364-1238 Fax
pgormley@charlestownri.org

From: lynn macalister <lynnandmitch@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 3:05 PM
To: Patrick Gormley <pgormley@charlestownri.gov>
Subject: Conservation Commission

Hi Patrick
Jeff gave your name as the person to contact to ask for a YTD report of the two Conservation Commission budgets we use
740-5020 and 620-6065
Thank you
Lynn Macalister
Charlestown Conservation Chair

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From: lynn macalister lynnandmitch@hotmail.com
Subject: Fwd: South Farm Preserve
Date: February 22, 2024 at 8:34 PM
To: silvermoon LaRose slarose@tomaquagmuseum.org

LM

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From: Alan Arsenault <AArsenault@CharlestownRI.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 10:42:46 AM
To: lynn macalister <lynnandmitch@hotmail.com>
Cc: Bonnie Langlois <BLanglois@CharlestownRI.gov>
Subject: RE: South Farm Preserve

Lynn,

We will be able to continue the mowing schedule as in past years, and accommodate black swallow wort area mowing as well.

Placing boulders will not thwart dirt-bikes as they can enter through any path wide enough for the tire (6").

Boulders would prevent convenient access for fire apparatus in the event of a brush or building fire, and for that reason

I would not recommend any interference with existing road access points. Bikes can go anywhere.

Schoolhouse boulders were placed to prevent entry by 4 wheel Drive motor vehicles dumping bottles, garbage, and Starting fires.

From: lynn macalister <lynnandmitch@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2024 2:59 PM
To: Alan Arsenault <AArsenault@CharlestownRI.gov>
Subject: South Farm Preserve

Hi Alan

I hope you have been having a nice winter so far. I had enjoyed the milder winter, but it seems Mother Nature has changed her mind:)

The Conservation Commission has discussed the 2024 management schedule for South Farm Preserve. Is the DPW able to mow South Farm again this year? If it's possible, we would like to follow the same DPW mowing schedule as last year at South Farm with some tweaks. The land management plan for South Farm will no longer call for the 2x full field cuts like years past. The URI recommendation is to mow the front field areas only where the black swallow wort is invading every six weeks and along both field perimeters once in the fall. Lexi Johnson from URI worked with one of your people last summer to mark and show where the Black Swallow wort mow areas are. I'm sure she will be able to do that again.

You know the best times. I'm tentatively putting on my calendar maybe around the weeks of May 20, July 1, August 12, September 23 depending on when you do the first mow in Spring. The back and front fields perimeter would need to be mowed once in September along the grassy edge of the field/woods line to keep the woods from expanding.


Please call me if you need to.

Thanks,

Lynn

I almost forgot.. Dirt bikes have been going onto the wood trails at South Farm from Old Coach Road. We talked about asking DPW to place a couple of big boulders at the spots where they are going in to block access like at Schoolhouse Pond Preserve. What do you think?

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From: Karen Baldyga baldygakarena@gmail.com 
Subject: Budget
Date: February 22, 2024 at 7:12 PM
To: silvermoon LaRose slarose@tomaquagmuseum.org



Charlestown Conservation Commission		Proposed Budget 2024-2025	
740-5020	CONSERVATION COMMISSION	proposed	4,190
	Small tools and equipment		240
	trash grabbers, plastic gloves, pruners, bag openers, replacement lock for Sprague Kiosk, metal post driver		
	Equipment maintenance, repairs and supplies		200
	tool sharpening, new chainsaw chains, chain oil,		
	Supplies and refreshments for volunteers at Community Trail Maintenance Work Days		200
	coffee, donuts, water, bug spray,		
	Annual Events-materials and supplies		300
	Arbor Day, Earth Day, Well Water Workshop, Holiday Ramble, Invasives Presentations		
	Office supplies		100
	printer paper, ink		
	July 2023 RI Land and Water Conservation Summit 2 day conference		500
	approximate- 7 attendees		
	Trail marking and wayfinding supplies		250
	spray paint, fasteners, metal posts		
	Trail signage		400
	replacement of Cedar Swamp Sign		
	Picnic Tables		1400
	South Farm and Richard -replacements		
	Tucker -new		
	Safety clothing		300
	orange vests		
	Commissioner hats for new members		
	Kiosk map printing		300
	replacement at all preserves except Tucker, Cedar Swamp		
		total	4,190

21,500

Map Booklets ?