

**Final Minutes**  
**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Thursday, March 24, 2022 7:00 pm

**Charlestown Town Hall Meeting Room**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** : 7:06 am Lynn Macalister called the meeting to order.
- II. **ROLL CALL**: Present: Lynn Macalister, Shirley Griffin, Silvermoon LaRose, Anthony Feisthamel  
Excused: Gary Gardiner, Karen Baldyga, Charles Connery
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**: Hon. Deb Carney, Hon. Grace Klinger, Nicholas Testa, Ken Anderson
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR February 27, 2022**: Date was incorrect, Feb. 27 not 24. S.Griffin made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by A.Feisthamel. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS**
  1. **Charlestown Preserve Geocaches**: Ken Anderson, overall the geocaching has been successful. At least 50 people geocaching. Richard more frequently accessed than Sprague. They have to be 1/10th of a mile apart so they cannot just go anywhere. Ceramic owls are being left at some of the trails. Not related to the geocaching. Unknown where they have come from. Ken would like to hold an “event”, for geocachers. They are fairly popular amongst Geocachers. The idea for these events are to bring people together to trade ideas, share experiences. Ken has never done one but would like our support to have this event. L.Macalister said we would need more specifics about how many people, how many cars, planning for parking, etc. Grace gave a reminder that we cannot do anything for monetary gain. It doesn’t sound like this would be for monetary gain. S.LaRose to share information with commission members on [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) and these geocaching events so we can learn more about them, if and how we can do it. Then at the next meeting we can come back more informed to make a decision on this. Ken is also interested in gadget caches and introduced the idea of us having one. Referenced West Virginia Tim; wvtim geocache - gadget caches for us to learn from. These are bigger and more expensive so they would need to be locked down or something to secure them. It’s more of an investment. If Ken were to place one, he would want to be sure it’s secured. He would really like to do it, but would need our

support to make sure it's secured. We advised that he bring his idea to us for us to review and make a decision on. Ken left after making his proposal.

2. **Open Space DEM grant application-** Carl Richard property - Grant for \$400,000 was approved, 90 acres, it is currently designated as open space but is not permanent open space. It is part of the Farm/Forest/Open Space program, once you apply and are in it, you have to renew every 10 years. At this point we are just being made aware that this is going to go through the process which may take months before we hear more.
  
3. **Tucker Woods Preserve** - L. Macalister reported that Larlham was supposed to brush hog on Wednesday, unfortunately there was a mix up and they did not show with the correct tools, it was a communication error. Greg Martin at Larlham has now been assigned to the project. Charlie had them cut 3 more trees that were dangerous. Now April 1st the work will commence. Kiosk is made and will be delivered next Friday to the town hall. We will need to get an estimate for putting it in. Parking lot is on Allen's work list, however no timeline is being provided at this time. Will continue to follow up. Estimates for road signs from Graphics Unlimited, located Putnam Ct. They have made all our signs. Estimate for aluminum double sided sign "Tucker Woods, Town of Charlestown" (to include vinyl stickers for other preserves) # and small Dawn to Dusk sign \$126.84 each (we need four 507.46) wooden post and beam constructed frame (\$786.54), no installation included - just sign is \$331.40, Total cost = \$1625.30 (but tax will need to be removed). Second estimate - aluminum composite material \$309.20, dawn to dusk approx. \$20 cheaper each, significant change would be the stand, \$491. It wouldn't match what we have but is significantly cheaper. Total cost = \$1238.09. We will need to have 4 dawn to dusk signs so this estimate will need to be amended to include 5 dawn to dusk signs. Discussion from group reflected that the CCC has funds to cover, the first estimate utilizes better materials and will last longer. S.Griffin made a motion to approve up to \$2000 for the purchase of signage for Tucker woods and the accompanying dawn to dusk signs for all the preserves. S.LaRose seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Nicholas raised a concern. To hay/mow the field would be eco-terrorism, displacing species like Woodcocks, whip-poor-wills, lady's tresses, monarch butterfly migration, firefly migration, dragonfly migration, gray fox, red fox, bobcat, etc. L.Macalister said it is not a wholesale cutting of the field. It's the perimeter. Cutting the perimeter keeps back the bittersweet, autumn olives, sumac from encroaching. Perimeter pitch pine also should to be removed to preserve the field.

4. **Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve** - Nothing new to report, all looks fine.
5. **Charlestown Moraine Preserve** - Nothing new to report
6. **Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve** - Larlham removed huge tree across river trail so now it is open. Mike Paliotta to be contacted about ATVs. A.Feisthamel asked if we wanted to put a sign at the end of the road to inform people of the trail's location. L. Macalister will investigate that and report back.
7. **Richard Trails Preserve-Schoolhouse Pond Preserve** - L.Macalister cleaned up the no-hunting signs and cleaned parking lot and replaced maps.
8. **School House Pond Preserve** - Hasn't been checked this month. Nothing was reported.
9. **South Farm Preserve** - Report was sent via land trust that a large black trash bag was left there. DPW, Bonnie Langlois, sent someone out there from transfer station to remove within an hour of being notified. Cemetery was cleared of 3 large limbs and debris. After receiving reports from community, two overhanging trees and one small tree on trail, L.Macalister and husband removed them. They also repaired the sliding barn door latch and hasp which had been broken. It wasn't broken because of vandalism. It was due to high winds and the roller system being damaged as a result. Picnic table, the top is falling apart. L.Macalister believes her husband can repair. Others reported that picnic tables are affordable right now so we may just want to purchase a new one while they are on sale.
10. **Coastal Pond Commission report** - Deb Carney shared an update. Trying to create a plan to create access point. A potential solution was presented however the cost to create this plan may be prohibitive. Still trying to come up with options. As of now, no feasible solutions have been identified.
11. **Conservation Commission Facebook page** - S.LaRose reported that the CCC has shared 4 new posts since last month's meeting, gained 46 new followers, and has a total of 516 total followers to date. Just a note of interest, only about 200 followers are Charlestown residents. The majority are from neighboring communities.
12. **Possible picnic table donation** - Tables were sold so there are to be no donations.

## **VI. ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS -**

- Well Water Workshop - S.Griffith has been waiting to see where covid stood and whether to do in person or online. We will still sponsor but details are forth coming.
- Deerfoot 5k earth day event, April 30, 10:00am-2:00pm CCC will have a table. Grace reminded that we have a banner. She will need people to help man the table that day.
- Take a Book For a Walk Event - A.Feisthamel picked up the prizes for the promotion.
- Budget Commission - L.Macalister reported that we previously had \$19,000, now it sounds like they are proposing \$40,000. However it is unclear that all these funds are being set aside solely for the CCC. Deb Carney suggests Lynn speak to Mark Stankiewicz to ask if this is all for the CCC or for other things, get clarification.
- Fisher Study - They will be continuing into this fall; Of the two that are CCC properties, School house reported 304 species were detected and Sprague 712 species were detected

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS -**

### **1. CRMC Notices - none**

### **2. A.Feisthamel asked if we could share out these Parks & Rec Commission events:**

- Park & Rec. Commission will be doing a trail walk on 4/9 at Carter preserve, Ellison Brown Trail Walk, celebrating Tarzan Brown
- On 4/11 5:30pm Ninigret Park, new nature trail created, walk going on that day

## **VIII. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS - none**

## **VI. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENT - none**

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT - S.Griffin made a motion to adjourn meeting, L.Macalister seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.**

**The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday April 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.

