

**FINAL MINUTES**  
**Charlestown Conservation Commission**  
**Thursday May 25, 2023, 7pm**  
**Charlestown Town Hall**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** - Lynn Macalister called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

**II. ROLL CALL** - Present: Lynn Macalister, Anthony Feisthamel, Rick Melvin, Nicholas Testa, Silvermoon LaRose, Shirley Griffin; Excused: Charles Connery

**III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Steve Williams, Friend of Conservation; Town Council Liaison Grace Klinger not present

**IV. TOWN COUNCIL LIASON TO THE COMMISSION** - remarks: Grace Klinger, not present

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** April 27, 2023 and Special Meeting Minutes May 15, 2023 - Rick made a motion to accept the special meeting minutes on May 15, 2023. Shirley seconded the motion. The motion passed with 2 abstentions Silvermoon and Nick as they were not present. In April 27, 2023 minutes, Nick's name needs to be corrected to Nicholas Testa. Rick made a motion to accept the April 27, 2023 minutes with correction to Nicholas Testa's name, Shirley Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. REPORTS:**

- Town Council Meeting May 22, 2023 - Lynn was added to the agenda at the May 22nd Town Council Meeting to share our monitoring activities. Council was interested in our recommendations. Sounds like Grand Prix will be removed from our list and two properties are to be added. More to follow.
- Social Media - 669 followers, 305 engagements in the last 28 days
- FY 2023-24 #620-6065 - Purchased Services - Trails and Field Maintenance \$13,000 - Budget has not passed. We put in for \$23,000 but the Council decreased to \$13,000 pending voting.
- 740-5020 FY 2022-23 - Conservation Commission account - \$4,285 - That proposed amount was included pending vote.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS** - Reports, discussion and/or actions regarding monitoring, management and/or maintenance - Rick has monitored most of the preserved, some chalk graffiti keeps reappearing but has been able to be cleaned, everything looked good and materials were replaced.

- Arnold - doing well but Japanese Knotweed needs to be addressed, Anthony to address
- Charlestown Moraine - Rick visited, all is well
- Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve - Rick will go back and repaint the river trail with yellow, additionally 2 trees at the overlook area and one overhanging on the river trail need to be removed for safety. These are emergency due to risk so they need to be addressed as soon as possible. Silvermoon made a motion to have those three trees be removed for safety. Rick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Richard Trails Preserve - just the chalk graffiti that Rick cleaned up
- Schoolhouse Pond Preserve - campfires at the rocks at the base of the rock at the second parking lot. Police aware of the issues and keeping an eye out. Tribal police as well.
- South Farm Preserve - Lisa Tewksbury and student Lexi Johnson requesting permission to continue swallow-wort research. Mowing 3x per growing season seems to be the best maintenance right now. Lexi, research student, has requested permission to create a control area for research and not have that area mowed. Nick made a motion to approve the URI research team's project as requested, allowing for marking of areas and no mowing of control area.

Anthony seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Lynn will be the point of contact. Nick recommended reaching out to Dr. Richard Casagrande to find out when is the best time to mow.

- Tucker Woods Preserve - More boundary markers and open space markers need to be posted. Tucker Woods is now open, the new trail is ready for community to enjoy. Silvermoon will share on Facebook. Nick shared concerns about the vendor that was used and conservation concerns. There needs to be more awareness by the conservation commission of what needs to be protected on that property. Question was proposed by Nick, who is responsible for the damage done at Tucker Woods? Rick felt the trail did not look damaged to the point of concern. Next steps, Lynn will contact DPW with concerns. Nick will make himself available to walk the trail with DPW. Updates will be shared next meeting.

**VIII. ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS** for discussion and possible actions

- 2023 Well Water Workshop - Shirley has coordinated the workshop. It is scheduled for July 26 at 6pm at Cross Mills Library.
- Spotted Lanternfly Presentation - Later September was agreed upon as the best time, Wednesday evenings at 6 preferred. Silvermoon to follow up.
- 740-5020 FY 2022-23 Conservation Commission Account - no updates
- AP 29 Lot 43-1 next steps - status unknown
- Comprehensive Plan Changes - Defer discussion for next meeting
- Other -
  - Lisa Tewksbury asked permission to put up signs to notify community about spotted lantern fly. Commission approved.
  - The commission will no longer make the arrangements for contractors or overseeing them. DPW will take over the vendor process beginning July 1st.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS** for discussion and possible actions - none

**X. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Silvermoon shared about the BioBlitz 2023, invited all to attend. Shared info on how to register.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT** - Rick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Anthony seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Silvermoon LaRose, Secretary Charlestown Conservation Commission*

**The next regular meeting will be held Thursday June 22, 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.