

## final Minutes

### CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thursday, May 26, 2022 7:00 pm

#### Charlestown Town Hall Meeting Room REGULAR MEETING

#### I. CALL TO ORDER by Chair Lynn Macalister at 7:00 pm

#### II. ROLL CALL

Lynn Macalister, Chair - present  
Shirley Griffin, Vice Chair *excused*  
Silvermoon LaRose, Secretary - *excused*  
Gary Gardiner present  
Karen Baldyga – present -note-taker,  
Charles F. Connery - *excused*  
Anthony Feisthamel present

#### III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS Guests: Nick Testa

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR April 28, 2022

**Moves:** Gary Gardiner **Second:** Anthony Feisthamel **Approved:** unanimous

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

##### 1. Tucker Woods Preserve- Discussion and potential actions

Blazing of both trails is completed; Parking lot is complete; Kiosk installed by **Larlham and Anthony**. The materials are bought for signboard cover and brochure box, volunteer Mitch Macalister will make and install it next week (thank you Mitch) ; Boundary signs are in process. They- will need installation but do not need to be done prior to opening. In the FALL. Signs will go around both stone walls on both sides. Boundary is not clearly defined without precise GPS/Survey so the rest of the property boundary will be signed when that is done.

Roadside “Charlestown Open Space” signs need to be installed. Volunteer(s): Gary, Anthony, (thanks all) 5/28 @1:00

Deer stands- **Anthony and Nick** will remove what they safely can before opening (*thanks to you both*)

Tucker Woods Road sign is in process of being made. @ Graphics Unlimited School Street in Putnam CT. Promised for next week. Will call 2 days before. When finished **Anthony will pick up (thanks Anthony)**. Lynn will get an estimate from Larlham to install

Opening Day posted at Town Hall, sent to; Friends, Charlestown Land Trust, Recreation, Coastal Ponds and planning commissions,

Facebook: our site, wire and -FB You must be from Charlestown, Do we need more? **Lots of interest received – no more advertising needed**

DISCUSSION: email about ticks. **Since we have URI signs, CDC signs, and chemical use, unless unusual reasons, prohibited by the management plan there will be no spraying.**

##### 2. Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve- Discussion and potential actions

Japanese knotweed needs to be cut again. Needs cutter with BLADE to cut through. We need to cut it prior to seeding.

### 3. Charlestown Moraine Preserve - Discussion and potential actions

Should we get Larlham to brush-hog the paths? It's too tight and they can't use the machines. Lynn will ask for an estimate to clear back path

### 4. Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve- Discussion and potential actions

Charlestown Land Trust has 2 stewards that are monitoring the property - Colleen Poe, Kent Krupler. They monitor it weekly and will send reports to CCC too. CCC is required to report on activities on that property to the CLT per the Conservation Easement that they hold on the property Larlham - estimated cutting paths of both field and woods - under \$1,500

Motion to spend up to \$1,500 for Larlham to mow fields: mowing paths all around back field, through grassy woods and both field paths.

**Moves:** Gary Gardiner **Second:** Anthony Feisthamel **Approved:** unanimous

### 5. Richard Trails Preserve-- Discussion and potential actions

Parking lot cleaned up and maps restocked. Mattress on Lewis Trail roadside was picked up by DPW.

### 6. Schoolhouse Pond Preserve- Discussion and potential actions No action. -

### 7. South Farm Preserve - Discussion and potential actions

**Charlie and Gary** weed whacked the parking lot and sauna path. They found a large Woodchuck hole – Gary tried to plug it. (*Thanks guys*)

**Black swallowwort -both Lisa Tewksbury from URI and Fed pamphlet sent from Richard recommend** the best practice is to mow and use an herbicide to eradicate. Mowing makes it stronger – encourages root growth. Mowing has been good only to limit seed dispersal.

Lisa has been trapping moths at night. (3x so far) No longer using the fixed traps. Will be out there during the summer with interns to collect specimens.

Paths have grown in. Should we cut the paths twice a month? Total of 4- 6 cuts for Larlham - every 3 weeks? .

Do we want to put this out to bid – one big quote for a multiple cuts estimate will be put on hold.

**Motion:** Larlham estimate to cut the paths for under \$1,200.

**Moves:** Anthony Feisthamel **Second:** Gary Gardiner **Approved:** unanimous

### 8. Coastal Pond Commission report

Right of Way subcommittee report – moving forward with Town Dock (Marina) kayak launch – apparatus and signage only, preliminary discussion on signage. Town charged CPC to find right-of-ways to the salt ponds and assess their publication and potential use

### 9. Conservation Commission Facebook page

Silvermoon absent - No report

### 10. Open Space DEM grant application- Carl Richard property

Survey declined at Town Council meeting so not moving forward at this time.

## VI. ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS

## 1. Conservation Commission FY 2021-2022 budget funds- Discussion and potential actions

Commission account remaining balance of 2,058.28 - we can purchase goods but not services in this account.

**Details of ENCUMBERED funds:** 12 Pats,- 21.29 Staples, -226.10 Voss,- 220 URI Tick signs,- 122.33 Home Depot Kiosk. (total \$601.72);

**DPW Purchased services** account remaining balance of \$2,650.87 **ENCUMBERED:** Tucker Brush Hog \$1200; and Kiosk install \$850

Discussion: Signs, kiosk material, opening day -\$100 for food and water. Land and Water Summit \$65/pp - (total \$360) – picnic table at Tuckers \$200 – pruning chainsaw kit Milwaukee \$400 –

**Motion:** Spend up to \$200 on a picnic table from Home Depot for Tucker Woods and \$400 on Milwaukee pruning chainsaw

**Moves:** Gary Gardiner **Second:** Karen Baldyga **Approved:** unanimous

**Motion:** Spend up to \$350 for tickets to Land And Water Summit.

**Moves:** Anthony Feisthamel **Second:** Gary Gardiner **Approved:** unanimous

Install Kiosk tick signs, Falling tree caution, and prohibited sign for all kiosks? Volunteer needed to install **Lynn and Mitch** (*thank you both*)

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. CRMC Notices None

### 2. RI Land and Water Conservation Summit 2022- Discussion and potential actions

Thursday July 14 Social at Tilted Barn after organization meetings

Friday July 15 Breakfast, lunch Loren Spears speaker, workshops

Saturday July 16 field trips If paid by June 16 \$65 (2022 budget) \$90 after (2023 budget)

## VIII. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS-

Meeting on June 1@3:00 with town manager Mark Stankiewicz – discussing how the CCC needs assistance

## VI. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENT

### June 18<sup>th</sup> Tucker Woods Opening Day 10:00 a.m.

Offering donuts, fruit, and water.

Mary will speak to history of the property

John Winkelman, Linda Fabre, Andrea Winkelman – talk about current actions to preserve the land

Nick Testa will speak about the landscape and topography of the site

Deb Carney will cut the ribbon.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** Adjourn @ 8:23 p.m.

**Moves:** Gary Gardiner **Second:** Anthony Feisthamel **Approved:** unanimous

**The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday June 23, 2022, 7pm**

POSTED AT TOWN HALL	1/30/23	JJG
POSTED ON TOWN'S WEBSITE	1/30/23	JJG
POSTED ON SOS WEBSITE	1/30/23	JJG