

**Draft Minutes**

**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

**Charlestown Town Hall Council Chambers**

**REGULAR MEETING**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Lynn Macalister called the meeting to order at 7:00pm
  
- II. **ROLL CALL** - Present: Lynn Macalister, Karen Baldyga, Charles Connery, Silvermoon LaRose, Anthony Feisthamel Excused: Gary Gardiner, Shirley Griffin
  
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS** - n/a
  
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR October 27, 2022** - Tabled for the next meeting as the minutes were not received by all
  
- V. **OLD BUSINESS** discussion and actions regarding management and maintenance of:
  - 1) Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve: volunteers will be assisting Lynn with litter cleanup; Charlestown Moraine Preserve: path still need to be widened, committee feels Larlham quote \$2160 was too high and may be incorrect, Charlie will follow up to clarify; Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve: Lynn & Charlie cleared 3 downed trees and removed brush, River trail needs attention priority in spring; Richard Trails Preserve: tree down on pink trail, Anthony will address; Charlie made a motion to purchase fuel and bar and chain oil up to \$100, seconded by Anthony, motion passed 4 approved, one abstained; Schoolhouse Pond Preserve: no updates for this month; South Farm Preserve: all looks good, Lynn did some clipping of one section of the trail; Tucker Woods Preserve: community member Nick reported that all looks good; some invasive to be addressed in future.
  - 2) Progress report on seeking URI student to assist the chairperson to develop management template, town wide preserve map, QR scan codes, and update select trail maps, brochure, trail summaries, older preserve management plans and advise the Commission on making Preserve info more user friendly and easier to access: 4 viable candidates have been identified; Karen and Lynn will be following through in the process for the interviews. Concerns were raised about the oversight of the candidates once hired and who should be a part of the interview process to determine that the best candidate is hired.
  - 3) Conservation Commission Facebook page report: 595 followers, a small but steady growth. Posts and photos have been shared.
  - 4) Coastal Pond Commission report: no December meeting but dredging of breach way has begun
  
- VI **ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS** discussion and possible actions on
  - 1) Establishing an ad-hoc committee to address Commission duties: Schedule a special meeting for to discuss options and determine our preferred plan for addressing commission duties - January 18 at 6:30pm for Special Meeting Discussion and potential action regarding management of town owned open space property; On the agenda will be 1. approval of October 27, 2022 minutes and

December 8, 2022 meeting minutes 2. Discussion and potential action regarding management of town owned open space property

- 2) 2021-22 Budget: Lynn Reported that \$1,299 was spent in October
- 3) Proposed 2022-23 Budget: Lynn will figure costs for new trail, dead trees on several preserves that need to be addressed, and add that to our budget request. Karen made motion to task Lynn with creating budget proposal and submitting with additional funds to be requested to cover the trail addition on Tucker preserve and the dead trees on the preserves that need to be addressed.  
Charlie seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **IIX NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Metal detecting on Preserves: In the management plan under prohibited uses and activities it states there can be no disturbance of topsoil. Therefore, metal detection that requires digging up of finds would not be in compliance with the management plan.
- 2) Public Notice -- CRMC File 2022-06-127 -- 4772 Old Post Road, Charlestown

## **IX MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENT**

**X ADJOURNMENT:** Charlie made motion to adjourn meeting. Anthony seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

**The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday January 26, 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