

Minutes
CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Thursday April 27, 2023, 7PM
Charlestown Town Hall Council Chambers

- I. CALL TO ORDER** - 7:07pm Lynn Macalister called the meeting to order
- II. ROLL CALL** - Present: Charles Connery, Richard Melvin, Nicholas Testa, Lynn Macalister, Silvermoon LaRose, Shirley Griffin (arrived at 7:25pm); Excused: Anthony Feisthamel
- III. INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS** - Liaison Grace Klinger recognized: Brought to attention April 29 CoastalPonds Clean up at 9am Ocean House Marina 641-1951; May 4 at Ninigret Park Ark Food Truck Event; May 3 Open House Meeting (recommends sending a few members) 6pm at Town Hall; May 8 Town Council -possible amendments to the comprehensive plan; Public Budget Hearing May 1 at 7pm at Town Hall; June 5 at 8am-8pm Town Referendum on the budget at Town Hall; May 22 Town Council Meeting - Lynn is on the agenda to speak about annual monitoring report, others encouraged to come
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR March 30, 2023** - Tabled until end of meeting - Charlie made motion to approve the March 30, 2023 minutes, Shirley seconded the motion. Motion passed with 2 abstained, Rick and Nick, weren't present for the March 30 meeting.
- V. NEW BUSINESS** for discussion and possible actions - Nick made a motion to move new business up on the agenda for immediate discussion. Lynn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 1) Vendor process - Our process has been, anything under \$3000 we are not required to put out to bid. If we have to put it out to bid, we would look for a vendor who can meet needs with a quick response time, with high quality, cost effective, and in a timely manner, to ensure maximum safety and care of property. The 620-6065 budget is under the umbrella of DPW and Alan has directed us to use a vendor they approve. If that changes, he will advise us. The committee would like to understand more information on the bid process. Lynn will investigate and bring back information.
 - 2) CCC Ordinance revision input needed from the Commission (see attached) - We have concerns that the managing and monitoring of the properties and trails that we do is not recognized in the duties. We also keep an index of all open spaces with our recommendations that are submitted annually and that duty should be included here. We should also have included our public education and information distribution efforts as well as community outreach (engaging community in volunteer efforts to support open space maintenance). Some duties are active some are passive, all should be recognized. Lynn to submit these thoughts for inclusion in revision of the ordinance.
 - 3) Election of Officers - Annually we need to elect officers. Nick made a motion to nominate Lynn Macalister for Chair, Shirley Griffin for vice chair, and Silvermoon LaRose for Secretary. Rick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS**
- 1) Discussion and actions regarding management and maintenance - Rick visiting trails monthly to replace maps, monitor trails, and report back to the CCC on needs as required
 1. Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve - continues to be monitored; friend of conservation Steven Eaves has been regularly removing trash
 2. Charlestown Moraine Preserve - Rick walked a few weeks ago and it was clear at that time

3. Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve - \$275 was paid to remove tree that was a danger; received quote from Larlham of \$990 to brush cut trail around back field and past the small field, Rick made a motion to approve the cost of \$990 for the trail work. Nick Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, to be scheduled for late May; Community Cleanup Day May 7 at 10am focus on river trail
4. Richard Trails Preserve - picnic table needs to be painted; graffiti in chalk on the sign but Rick cleaned it up
5. Schoolhouse Pond Preserve - Charlie and Lynn trimmed some of the brush but more needs to be done
6. South Farm Preserve - vandalism: gravestone is down, Charlestown Historical Society will take care of it (a contact of Pam Lyons)
7. Tucker Woods Preserve - Parking has been expanded beautifully, thanks to Alan and the team at DPW for this work; New trail work has begun, Sunday April 30th special meeting to continue working is cancelled due to impending rain - will reschedule after Larlham finishes logging. Larlham estimate of \$2,900 to brush hog (once trees are down) - Silvermoon made a motion to approve \$2900 to brush hog the new trail, Shirley seconded the motion. Motion passed with one abstention from Nick. Geocaches have been removed from Tucker.

VI. ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS for discussion and possible actions

- 1) Land and Water Summit - Lynn and Silvermoon attended. Silvermoon presented at the conference.
- 2) Earth Day Celebration/Deerfoot 5K/ Take a Book on a Hike - Prizes to be distributed
- 3) Spotted Fly presentation - Working on a date; Keep posting information on Facebook
- 4) 2022-23 Budget - 620-6065 Purchased Service Budget, \$7900 remaining - could possibly be used to tackle invasives on the properties - to discuss more and determine course of action. 740-5020 Conservation Commission Budget \$1112 - need new brochures and roadsigns, will revisit in May.

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS -

- IX. ADJOURNMENT** - Charlie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Silvermoon LaRose, Secretary Charlestown Conservation Commission

The next regular meeting will be held Thursday May 25, 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.