

**Draft**

**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Charlestown Town Hall

4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

**December 9, 2021 7:00 PM**

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm
- II. ROLL CALL - Present: Anthony Feisthamel, Charles Connery, Karen Baldyga, and Lynn Macalister. Silvermoon LaRose arrived late at 7:10pm. Excused: Gary Gardiner
- III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS - One guest present, Claudia Townend.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR September 30, 2021, October 29, 2021 and November 13, 2021 -
  - a. Karen Baldyga made a motion to accept the September 30, 2021 minutes. Charlie Connery seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
  - b. Karen Baldyga made a motion to accept the October 29, 2021 minutes. Anthony Feisthamel seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
  - c. Changes were requested to the November 13, 2021 minutes. Karen Baldyga made a motion to accept the November 13, 2021 minutes as amended. Charles Connery seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
- V. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve - L. Macalister, everything looks fine, not further updates
  - b. Charlestown Moraine Preserve - L. Macalister reported that friends of CCC, Julie and Rick Melvin, walked Thanksgiving weekend and reported that everything was wonderful on the trails. No damage from wind storm.
  - c. Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve - C.Connery reported that a call was received that a tree was on the path. When he went to take care of it, someone already had cleared it. L.Macalister reported that it was a community member. She told the community member that for liability issues, he should not do that in future. There are several other trees down on this property that will need to be addressed. L.Macalister to call Larlham tomorrow to discuss needs and gather a quote for the work. A few commission members will need to do a walk through to tag dead trees that need to be removed because they pose a danger to the public. This will take place the week after Christmas. **Shirley Griffin made a motion to approve funding for trail maintenance not to exceed \$2,999.00. Dead trees that pose a danger to the public will be tagged for cutting.**

**Larlham will cut as many of those tagged dead trees as possible within that allowed amount. Karen Baldyga seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

- d. Richard Trails Preserve - No one has checked the trail since the last meeting. Will need to be checked. Allen Arsenault, Department of Public Works, will put up an official no dumping sign. We had an email asking about the signs on Richard's Trail that say no hunting because they felt it looked unofficial. The question was, is this public land and is hunting allowed. L.Macalister confirmed that on all of the properties managed by the CCC, hunting is not allowed as per our management plans. Discussed the need to improve signage regarding no hunting and for walkers to wear orange just for safety.
- e. Schoolhouse Pond Preserve - Friends Julie and Rick Melvin walked this property and reported that it looked beautiful.
- f. South Farm Preserve - Report received that there were no blazes on the trail. L.Macalister has reported that the old blazes had faded so it has since been re-blazed.
- g. Tucker Woods Preserve - L.Macalister reported that she found out the property has been surveyed but there are no markers up. It had to be surveyed in order to be purchased. The CCC needs to know where we can put up the boundary markers. L.Macalister will talk to Steve McCandless, GIS coordinator, to assist in flagging the property boundaries. The Tucker property was discussed regarding where the trail could go through, when this could happen, what areas are concerning. L.Macalister would like to have a subcommittee to spearhead this project. A.Feisthamel will take the lead on this subcommittee.
- h. Coastal Pond Commission report - L.Macalister reported on a few highlights from this meeting. She believes in January, the last public hearing will be held on the mooring fields, one change was made. - Quonny fishing access was discussed, currently no public access. Discussion about creating access. - Rec. department discussion regarding access to the kayak launch behind beach parking. - Changes are being made to beach parking. Limiting parking for overcrowding. Should ensure parking for town residence but limit to out of town guests.
- i. Conservation Commission Facebook page - S.LaRose reported. Gained 28 new followers in November. We now have 323 followers. 5 posts made in November. Post on Tucker walk post most engagement and furthest reach to date by a large margin. Members can send Silvermoon pictures to post on the Facebook page.

## VI. ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. CRMC Notices - none
  
- b. Open Space DEM grant application - Currently, there is a confidentiality agreement signed by the town with the owner. This property will be under the Conservation Commission if all goes through. We will find out in early January if DEM has made the decision to fund the open space grant application that the town has applied for.

VIII. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS - none

VI. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENT -

- VII. ADJOURNMENT - Shirley Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles Connery seconded the motion. All approved, motion unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

**The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday January 27, 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.

POSTED AT TOWN HALL	12/16/21	JJG
POSTED ON TOWN'S WEBSITE	12/16/21	JJG
POSTED ON SOS WEBSITE	12/16/21	JJG