

Approved
CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TELEPHONIC AND/OR VIDEO REMOTE REGULAR MEETING
February 23, 2021, 7:00 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by L. Macalister, Chair.
- II. ROLL CALL:** Present: L. Macalister, S. Griffin, S. LaRose, C. Connery. Excused: G. Gardiner. Unexcused: K. Simoneau (unable to contact)
- III. WELCOME NEW MEMBER TO COMMISSION:** L. Macalister offered Congratulations to A. Feisthamel on his appointment and C. Connery for his re-appointment to the Commission at the Town Council February 8th meeting.
- IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No public comments or guests in attendance
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR January 26, 2021 MEETING:** Motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2021 made by S. Griffin. 2nd: A. Feisthamel. Aye: L. Macalister, C. Connery, S. Griffin, A. Feisthamel, S. LaRose. Nay: None. Abstain: None.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS**
- a. Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve:** L. Macalister reported no change, preserve looks good, restocked maps and brochures
- b. Charlestown Moraine Preserve:** L. Macalister restocked maps and brochures, reported there are people using trail
- c. Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve**
- L. Macalister restocked maps and brochures. She reported an ATV on the property, called the police but by that time they arrived, the ATV had left; the trespass was logged. She returned and put up a sign that says no ATV's, no biking, no motorcycles, no bikes, etc.
 - C. Connery reported that the weather has delayed Larlham from doing removal. Possibly next week.
 - L. Macalister reported that she, C. Connery, S. LaRose and guest A. Feisthamel walked trail and noted dead oak trees, planned the opening of the view at the amphitheater, noted downed trees across path and stone sitting area; identified location for Lions Club bench; agreed upon additional brush hogging needs for north field and south field, and the need to schedule re-blazing.
 - C. Connery will Contact Larlham for estimates of additional work and schedule work day.
 - L. Macalister reported having spoken with Karen Jarret (Charlestown Land Trust President) about opening the trail to the river. Karen approved of opening up the

view, would love to get a path down to the river's edge. C. Connery said that came up before but it was thought to present a liability to the town. L. Macalister said it is something we could still look in to.

- L. Macalister reported having attempted to contact Lori Dubee, of the local Lyonsclub regarding bench, no success as of yet. Will report back next month.

d. Richard Trails Preserve

- S. LaRose reported on attempt to find local woodworker to build new kiosk; the only response was a Kevin Travers, kevintraversdesign.com, he said he would take a look and get back to her. Will follow up and continue seeking and bring back costs for next meeting.
- L. Macalister reported the need to schedule re-blazing and placement of boundary sign along back trail

e. Schoolhouse Pond Preserve

- S. Griffin reported that C. Connery had thought neighbor's property sign had been moved causing confusion around parking area, S. Griffin visited the property and agrees it does look like signs have been moved making it look like you can't park in that area. S. Griffin suggested putting up our own signs and having some stakes to mark our area.
- L. Macalister agrees we do need better boundary markers; L. Macalister reported visiting the property after S. Griffin and hanging a parking area sign on the kiosk, however the neighbor's sign still creates confusion.
- S. Griffin and L. Macalister discussed possible solutions; A. Feisthamel suggested a poll fence which was estimated to cost approx. \$78.95 for a wooden 20 ft. section
- A. Feisthamel and L. Macalister to visit property this week to look at it for a snow fence and then report back next meeting on a solution.

f. South Farm Preserve

- L. Macalister advised that a date needs to be set for a work day. Need to schedule a date to take care of the trails and another day to do other work (signage for picnic area, repaint tables, owl/bird boxes in need of repair, etc). Suggested this wait until April so weather can accommodate. Recommended to choose date at next meeting.
- L. Macalister inquired whether or not the barn needed to be stained. C. Connery advised that the CCC had paid someone years ago to stain the barn. L. Macalister will investigate further and report back on what we need to do to the barn..

g. Additional Old Business

- S. LaRose reported that advised changes to the comp plan had been submitted to Jane Weidman, Town Planner, and are being taken under consideration. L. Macalister had suggested changes to the wording describing the Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp preserve, preferring the wording in the Open Space brochure. S. LaRose had edited the wording to reflect the wording in the brochure and submitted it as well.
- L. Macalister reported discussing the possibility of creating a Facebook Page for the Charlestown Conservation Committee with Mark Stankiewicz, Town Administrator

and that it was approved but advised to keep the page informational and closed to public comment. S. LaRose has begun to create page and will share with the commission members before making public.

- Budget discussion was led by L. Macalister who reported that for Purchased Services Trails & Field Maintenance the Town budgeted \$20,000 and to date we have spent \$5,725.00 (\$2265.00 at Sprague Preserve and \$ 2450.00 at Charlestown Moraine Preserve and \$1010.00 at Sprague Preserve). These funds will also be utilized for additional work at Sprague Preserve when Larlham completes work on the fields. These funds can also be used for the fence at School House Preserve parking area. Additionally, the Conservation Commission has budgeted for Supplies \$4,600 and to date has spent \$178.45. L. Macalister asked if any additional supplies were needed from Pat's Power. C. Connery requested fuel and chain oil. L. Macalister suggested hiring out to complete work on Sprague, clearing of the view and downing a few dead trees. C. Connery and A. Feisthamel believe they are capable of taking care of this work themselves. It was agreed that C. Connery, A. Feisthamel, and S. LaRose would meet to work on this Sunday, February 28th at 10am.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. CRMC Notices: none

b. Coastal Pond Commission report L. Macalister reported this is a continuation of the Harbor study of existing and potential Public Access sites. They are working on compilation of town owned and other entities owned property with the identification of and with addressing accessibility, signage, and priority for CRMC designation. This is ongoing.

c. Additional New Business

- L. Macalister noted the need to fill the vice chair position, S. Griffin is willing to take the position, CCC will vote on this in the next meeting
- L. Macalister introduced project with Azure Cygler, Fisheries & Aquaculture Extension Staff (The Coastal Resources Center Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island 220 South Ferry Road Narragansett, RI 02882) Her group is working on placement of Aquaculture interpretive signs for Ninigret as part of a regional NOAA project. They're planning to create & install 2 interpretive signs about aquaculture in 2 locations in RI. One will be at Ninigret pond. It will describe aquaculture, in general (what it is, how it works, #s related to the industry, positive environmental benefits, etc.), but also more specifically aquaculture activities in that water body that the signs are adjacent to. L. Macalister to share link to show us her past work so we can see what the signage looks like.
- L. Macalister brought up the Tucker Estates advisory opinion; Conservation Commission may be asked to come out and look at the property and give our opinion on it in the future, just wanted to make group aware that this may come up eventually
- L. Macalister brought up Earth Day on April 22nd. C. Connery stated that in the past, the CCC tried 3 years in a row to plant a tree at the elementary school; CCC bought a 4 ft spruce tree every year to plant by the school, the town dug the hole and the 4th grade students got seedlings to take home. However every

year the custodian didn't water it and every year it died. So they stopped doing that. C. Connery doesn't recommend planting a tree there again. L. Macalister suggested that the CCC should look into seedlings for the students. L. Macalister will investigate the costs and report back for new meeting to be voted on.

VIII. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENT

L. Macalister reminded the committee of the Charlestown Conservation Friends Group. The list is very old, it's from 6-8 years ago consisting of some phone numbers and some email addresses of individual interested in volunteering. L. Macalister recommends trying to contact individuals on the list to update.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by S. LaRose. 2nd: A. Feisthamel. Aye: L. Macalister, A. Feisthamel, S. Griffin, S. LaRose, and C. Connery. Nay: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Silvermoon LaRose, Secretary

The next regular meeting will be held on March 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM TELEPHONIC AND/OR VIDEO REMOTE REGULAR MEETING

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.