

CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
May 28, 2019
Charlestown Town Hall
4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by G. Klinger, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: G. Klinger, G. Gardiner, S. Griffin, L. Macalister, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Excused: C. Connery.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** G. Klinger welcomed Deborah Carnet (Town Council member) and Ruth Mara and Roger Weiler who recently moved to Charlestown.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of **April 23, 2019** meeting was made by L. Macalister. 2nd: G. Klinger. Aye: G. Klinger, L. Macalister and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: G. Gardiner, S. Griffin and K. Simoneau. Motion to approve the minutes of **May 13, 2019** meeting was made by G. Gardiner. 2nd: K. Simoneau. Aye: G. Klinger, G. Gardiner, L. Macalister, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: S. Griffin. Motion to approve the minutes of the **May 20, 2019** meeting by K. Simoneau. 2nd: L. Macalister. Aye: G. Klinger, S. Griffin, L. Macalister, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: G. Gardiner.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve** – G. Klinger reported that members of the Charlestown Residents United (CRU) did a through clean-up. K. Simoneau will recheck to see if any new trash was left after the Memorial Day parade.
 - B. **Charlestown Moraine Preserve** – G. Gardiner reported that he had walked the trails and all is well and downed trees removed.
 - C. **Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve**
 - a. **Jeep tracks** - R. Thieke reported that K. Jarret of the Charlestown Land Trust (CLT) told him the jeep tracks in the field are filling in.
 - b. **Pine trees in field** - R. Thieke will contact K. Jarret to see when her CLT members will begin clearing the pine trees from the field.
 - D. **Richard Trails Preserve**
 - a. Clean-up was done on May 13, 2019 and all is well.
 - b. G. Klinger noted that URI has placed a southern pine beetle monitoring station there again this year.
 - E. **Schoolhouse Pond Preserve**
 - a. **Kiosk** – G. Gardiner and C. Connery will discuss and come up with plans for a kiosk for the eastern parking area as well as a more modest one for the entry parking area to guide people further into the Preserve. Motion by G. Gardiner to spend up to \$2000 for the kiosk for Schoolhouse Pond Preserve. 2nd: S. Griffin. Aye: G. Klinger, G. Gardiner, S. Griffin, L. Macalister, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
 - b. **Work Day** – scheduled spring clean-up for June 1, 2019 at 9:00 AM. G. Klinger has contacted the Friends of Conservation to see if some of them are available to help. It is also posted on the Charlestown Residents United website.
 - c. **Road sign** – G. Klinger will ask Public Works Dept. to rotate the sign along the road from parallel to the road perpendicular – thus making it more visible.
 - F. **South Farm Preserve**
 - a. **Work day** was held on May 18, 2019 and G. Klinger, G. Gardiner and R. Thieke were present as were Deb Carney, Steve Wilson and Beth Barrette Lynn. Parking area, cemetery, barn area were cleaned up and the trails cutback and widened.

- b. **Mowing the fields** – G. Klinger reported that Public Works has agreed to defer their fall mowing from August to after September 30.

G. Additional Old Business

- a. **Chainsaws** - Motion by G. Gardiner to purchase from Pat's Power two chainsaws at a total cost of \$749.98. 2nd: K. Simoneau. Aye: G. Klinger, G. Gardiner, S. Griffin, L. Macalister, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
- b. **Black Swallowwort** – G. Klinger reported that URI has installed three cages at South Farm this year to continue their research in trying to control or eliminate this invasive plant.

VI NEW BUSINESS

- A. **CRMC Notices** – None
- B. **Earth Fest Event in Ninigret Park on April 27, 2019** – G. Klinger, L. Macalister and K. Simoneau took turns manning our booth. Unfortunately, due to weather and competition from Easter egg roll, there were fewer attendees than last year.
- C. **Spring Bird Walk at the Sprague Preserve on May 4, 2019**. R. Thieke reported that only 10 people attended partly due to the early hour and weather.
- D. **Well Water Workshop** – S. Griffin reported that this year it will be held on July 16, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Cross Mills Library. Water test kits will be available.
- E. **Additional New Business**
 - a. Booth at Charlestown Land Trust Farmers Market – K. Jarret (President) has asked G. Klinger if we would like to have a booth. After discussion it was decided that we have too much else on our plate to ask our members to spend three hours each Friday doing this and so we will ask if we can just have some of our open space brochures on the CLT information table.

VII MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

VIII ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by R. Thieke to adjourn. 2nd: L. Macalister. Aye: G. Klinger, G. Gardiner, S. Griffin, L. Macalister, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N. Thieke, Secretary

Next regular Commission Meeting on June 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.

Next special Commission meeting scheduled on June 1, 2019 at 9:00 AM at Schoolhouse Pond Preserve.