

# CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 23, 2020

Charlestown Town Hall – Council Chambers  
4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by G. Klinger, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: G. Klinger, C. Connery, G. Gardiner, L. Macalister, S. Griffin and R. Thieke.  
Excused: K. Simoneau.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Deb Carney, Town Council Vice President attended
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of February 25, 2020 made by S. Griffin. 2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Macalister. Aye: G. Klinger, L. Macalister, S. Griffin and R. Thieke Nay: None.  
Abstain: C. Connery and G. Gardiner.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve** – G. Klinger will ask K. Simoneau to periodically monitor and remove trash.
  - B. **Charlestown Moraine Preserve**
    - a. Four trees had blown down across the trails and they have been removed.
    - b. G. Gardiner reported that he had walked the trails and they need to be brush cut and Larlham will be contacted to make a bid for doing the project.
  - C. **Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve**
    - a. Work Day – May 2, 2020 at 9:00 AM.- noted that it was cancelled due to virus.
    - b. Access for equipment – C. Connery and G. Gardiner met with Matt Larlham to determine the feasibility of widening the opening in the rock wall to permit entry and to build up the path to allow equipment in. They also asked for a bid to brush cut the trail around the field. Motion by G. Gardiner to spend \$1275 to open the rock wall and gravel fill in the trail and an additional \$990 to brush cut the trail around the field. 2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Connery. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery, G. Gardiner, S. Griffin, L. Macalister and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
    - c. L. Macalister reported that there have been a number of blowdowns off the trails but some on the trails should be removed. C. Connery and G. Gardiner reported that they had removed the trees from the trails.
    - d. C. Connery and G. Gardiner reported that there are three dead trees as you enter the parking lot and two more along side the lot. Larlham will be contacted to bid on their removal.
  - D. **Richard Trails Preserve**
    - a. G. Klinger and R. Thieke reported that they walked the trails and all was in order.
    - b. Southern Pine Beetle Trapping – URI report for the 2019 season indicated that none were found at the Preserve. URI has this year again placed traps.
    - c. L. Macalister reported that the trail markers need to be redone and different colors used to mark each trail.
  - E. **Schoolhouse Pond Preserve**
    - a. L. Macalister had reported that a number of trees were down across the trails and G. Gardiner removed 14 of them.
  - F. **South Farm Preserve**
    - a. Black Swallow-wort – URI has conducted two mothing light tests and had no evidence but they feel the weather has been too cool to bring out the moths. The test cages will be going in shortly but in a different location since it is felt that where placed last year may have provided too much direct sunlight.

- b. G. Klinger and R. Thieke walked the woodland trails and all was in order except for two small trees across the trail. They will be removed.
- c. The cemetery and the parking lot perimeter need to be cleaned up of branches and weed-whacked. The sign is covered with poison ivy vines and G. Klinger will spray it.

**G. Additional Old Business**

- a. AllTrails.com and ExploreRI.org – L. Macalister reported our trails are now on both sites, most getting good grades from walkers although the need to improve signage at Richard Trails resulted in lower rating for it.
- b. Town Website – Deb Carney reported that the Town website is being reworked and she will talk with the new IT person to update the Conservation Commission page and access to trail maps.
- c. Budget – our budget was approved and we also received an additional \$15000 for trail work thanks to the efforts of Deb Carney. This work will need to be OKed by Public Works because the money is included in their budget for accounting purposes.

**VI NEW BUSINESS**

**A. CRMC Notices –**

- 1. Philip and Amy Williams to construct and maintain a residential boating facility at 40 Grays Point Road
- 2. Buggie Investments LLC to construct and maintain modifications to a residential boating facility at 2 Powaget Avenue.
- 3. David Lovesky to modify a State of Rhode Island assent to use seasonal bottom cages on their one-acre lease site in Quonochontaug Pond
- 4. Sunset Holdings LLC to construct and maintain a new residential boating facility at 49 Sunset Drive
- 5. Robert and Lori Joyal to replace an existing boating facility at 4 Powaget Avenue.

**B. Land and Water Conservation Summit at URI – March 7, 2020** was cancelled due to coronavirus.

**C. Well Water Workshop** – will be held on Zoom in September. S. Griffin will report when a definite date is established and how test kits will be distributed and collected.

**D. Additional New Business**

- 1. **Tucker Estates** – this is a 66-acre property that the Town is seeking to purchase for open space and passive recreation. A grant of \$400k has been approved by the State and the Town will be negotiating a purchase price. Property has a number of kettle ponds, large field, wetlands and a stream and some contours to it. Commission members felt that if this property was acquired, we would need some professional help to lay out and construct trails.
- 2. **Oyster Drive** – this 4.27-acre parcel abuts an existing Town owned property and the Town has filed for a grant from the State to acquire it to add to the open space/passive recreation portfolio.

**VII MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: - None**

**VIII ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by G. Gardiner to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Macalister. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery, G Gardiner, L. Macalister, S. Griffin and R. Thieke. Nay: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Richard N. Thieke, Secretary

Next regular Commission Meeting on July 28 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall