

DRAFT MINUTES
CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Town Hall Council Chambers
Special Meeting
September 2, 2021 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER 7:20pm

II. ROLL CALL: Present - Lynn Macalister, Karen Baldyga, Shirley Griffin, Silvermoon LaRose; Excused - Gary Gardiner, Charles Connery, Anthony Feisthamel

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS: Deb Carney

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR June 24, 2021 MEETING: One edit was noted, S.Griffin made motion to approve minutes as amended, K.Baldyga seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve -

- Japanese Knotweed has returned, needs to be readdressed. L. Macalister will ask A. Feisthamel if he will try again and if not, we will request service from Larlham.

b. Charlestown Moraine Preserve -

- Tropical Storm Henri Damage - closed trail completely, we still don't know how many are down and will need to be removed. K. Baldyga made motion to spend up to \$2000 for tree clearing from trails for Charlestown Moraine Preserve; S.-Griffin seconded; motion passed unanimously.

c. Richard Trails Preserve -

- Tropical Storm Henri Damage - 9 trees down, blue trail has been closed; K. Baldyga made motion to spend up to \$2000 for tree clearing from trails for Richard Trail Preserve; S. Griffin seconded; motion passed unanimously

d. South Farm Preserve - Tropical Storm Henri Damage 6 trees down, three taken care of by commission members (Lynn/Charlie), 3 more to be taken care of - K. Baldyga made motion to spend up to \$1000 for tree clearing from trails for South Farm Preserve; S. Griffin seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- Two volunteers - documented damage at South Farm and Richard Trail, Thank you to Rick and Julie Melvin for their assistance.

S. Griffin made motion to move Schoolouse Pond for discussion up, and return to South after. Motion seconded by K. Baldyga. Motion passed unanimously.

f. Schoolhouse Pond Preserve

- Tropical Storm Henri Damage plan - Still don't know how many are down. K. Baldyga made a motion to spend up to \$2000 for tree clearing from walking trails for Schoolhouse Pond Preserve; Shirley seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- Clean up day - K. Baldyga motioned that we do a cleanup day at School house pond preserve on Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 9:30am; seconded by S. Griffin, motion passed unanimously.
- People are making fires and shooting/target practice at the preserve; some question of tribal boundaries at this spot; Management plan says there is to be no hunting, no campfires, no camping - We need to put up signs there because there

are no signs there currently - L. Macalister will put up signage

Return to South Farm Preserve discussion:

- Report from Lisa Tewksbury, Biological Control director URI - June 25th L.- Macalister met with Lisa - moth hasn't been seen yet after night sessions. They will be going back.
- Proposed changes to management plan to address swallow-wort - Lisa Tewksbury has recommended more frequent mowing, mow in mid-August as it is stated in the original management plan (we've been mowing in September), fungal control, competitive planting suggested that we plant narrow leaf gold-enrod, milkweed, or other grasses; Laura Morrison of URI will be contacted by Lisa to help with potential help in planning; CCC to consider these recommendations at a later date

e. Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve

- Tropical Storm Henri Damage - Larlham cost \$980 to remove 11 trees
- Fireplace conversion - S. LaRose reported that because of location of fireplace and inability to access by vehicle, the masonry company cannot do the work as they cannot get their equipment in there to do it. Can we possibly dissuade use by filling with loose stones? S. LaRose to attempt to fill the fireplace as a deterrent; will continue to monitor
- Swallow-wort - has become very invasive in the first field, will need to be addressed
- Charlestown Land Trust Botany Walk- 8/23/2021 - Wonderful event, went well, L. Macalister attended
- River Trail - doing well, seasonal, has flooded a couple of times but no damage from people walking on it

g. Tucker Preserve update - Purchase process is still ongoing.

h. Town Council report of CCC past year and 2022 planned activities/goals- see attached - Guest Deb Carney recommended looking at each committee's reports of goals and activities, is there opportunity for us to work together?

i. Coastal Pond Commission - Guest Deb carney reported - goal is to identify opportunities for public access to waterfront in the town, L. Macalister has been involved representing the CCC in these efforts; discussions and just looking at options at this point.

j. Conservation Commission Facebook page - S. LaRose reported the page now has 239 followers, 23 new in August; just sharing photos of trails and activities along with relevant Charlestown events and happenings.

k. Annual Well Water Workshop - S. Griffin reported on virtual workshop that was held, They had 70 responses but only 38 were on the zoom, went well, don't know how many dropped off samples but she will try to check up on that

l. Management Plans working group report - A. Feisthamel and L. Macalister went through and created a rough draft of what needs to be updated; found that Schoolhouse Pond management plan says \$2000 is to be received from town annually for maintenance of property and that has never been received. Guest Deb Carney said we should request that since it is in the approved plan.

VI. ADDITIONAL OLD BUSINESS

a. Calendar - Discrepancy in schedule (should be 4th Thursday of every month, not last Thursday of every month); also, due to the holidays we need to adjust the schedule - meeting to be

scheduled for December 9th - delete the December 30th date - Keep September 30th date because L. Macaliser cannot make September 23rd; need to check dates for 2022 and update schedule to be sure we are doing 4th Thursdays.

b. Wording on the website still needs to be updated - L. Macalister to send updates again.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Tick Signage - CDC signage to be put up at all the preserves at all the kiosks

b. DEM Green Space Grant (3 million matching funds) deadline 10/29/21 - We were asked if there was anything on our list we wanted to purchase or put in money for? K.Baldyga made a motion, that we respond No, we have nothing on our list but would like to be informed if any properties are under consideration. Motion was seconded by S.Griffin, motion passed unanimously. L.Macalister to send email regarding this.

c. Preserve Monitoring and Maintenance draft document - Disseminated to all CCC members, To be included in following weeks under old business for discussion.

IX. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS - none

X. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENT - none

XI. ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn made by S.Griffin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by K.Baldyga, Unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on **September 30, 2021 at 7:00 PM Town Hall Council Cham-bers**
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	9/7/21	JJG
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