

# Charlestown Climate Resiliency Commission

## 10/10/24 Regular Meeting



1) **Call to Order:** 5:08pm

2) **Attendance:** S. Racine, C. Beasley, M. Viola, S. Frattini, C. Fox

3) **Approval of Minutes:** Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Motion by M. Viola, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Beasley, approved by all.

4) **Public Communications:** Guests Matt Dowling & Kristen Hemphill from Town's Onsite Wastewater Mgt. Program in attendance along with project partners (URI Cooperative Extension & Salt Ponds Coalition) to brief the CCRC on the town's approved grant with the goal of improving water quality in Green Hill & Ninigret Ponds.

The town recently received a \$741,000 grant for a project entitled "Pilot Watershed" to conduct a risk analysis and develop a plan to upgrade traditional septic systems to denitrification systems and to work with Save the Bay to install coastal buffers on private lots along the pond to abate runoff. Project focus area is currently Green Hill Pond and East Ninigret. Hope is that future funding could expand the geographic area, and that this pilot project will serve as a model for other towns. Community engagement piece is being conducted by the Salt Ponds Coalition and URI called "Salt Ponds Smart". Including a certification program to recognize landowners and their efforts to be Salt Pond Smart. [www.uri.edu/saltpondssmart](http://www.uri.edu/saltpondssmart)

5) **CCRC Website Discussion:** S. Frattini provides an update to the Commission including 7 categories and corresponding content, contacts and links. Commissioners provide feedback including recommendations to consolidate and rename some categories.

6) **Charlestown Breachway Update:** State & town funding will support a temporary repair which should begin very soon. The emergency repair includes boulder placement and dovetails into the long term repair plan.

7) **Outreach:** (See 5)

8) **Commissioner Updates:** S. Racine reached out to D Prescott to get a FEMA speaker. And she spoke with Rob Lyons who is interested in holding a joint meeting with Coastal Ponds Management Commission and the CCRC. C. Beasley reports the first fire safety sign has been purchased.

9) **Adjournment:** C. Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Beasley, approved by all.

*Minutes Recorded & Submitted Electronically by C. Fox (Secretary)*