

# Charlestown Climate Resiliency Commission

## 01/12/23 Regular Meeting



### 1) 5:08 Call to Order

### 2) Attendance: D. Prescott, S. Racine, C. Drummond, S. Cooper

Guests: Steve McCandless (Town Staff); Art Gantz (Salt Ponds Coalition)

### Correspondence:

Roy E. Jacobsen sent letter to Westerly Sun copying Commission regarding Quonnie Drinking water and climate change concerns (Attachment A)

Asked to attend next regularly scheduled meeting to discuss concerns

### 3) Approval of Minutes No motion to accept 12/12/2022 minutes, tabled until next meeting.

### 4) Review of Proposals for Charlestown Beach Road Climate Cost Benefit Analysis:

#### *General overview:*

- Three proposals submitted and reviewed by designated review committee.
- Proposals were scored based on quality of the technical proposal (~50%), relevant experience of the firms (~25%) and relevant experience of key personnel (~25%).
- Scoring was used to narrow the list of 3 firms to 2 due to overall agreement of review committee.

#### *Decision:*

Provisional selection of a firm was based on agreement of quality of technical proposal and perceived competence of firm/personnel and cost. This decision is pending review of firm's references which will happen this week. Official memo on decision will be completed at a provisional meeting of the Resiliency Commission to be held Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 5 pm.

### 5) Request for Budget: Official request for budget tabled until next meeting pending additional input on:

- Clarified understanding of budget resource allocation for the Cost Benefit Analysis (Susan to follow up)
- Better understanding of need for grant writing? (To be assessed at the upcoming meeting with the RI Infrastructure Bank)
- Plan to make motion on budget request at provisional meeting (January 26)

**6) RI Infrastructure Bank Funds:**

-Meeting to be held Friday January 20. Dave Prescott and Sarah Racine will act as CRC representatives at meeting.

**7) Motion to Approved *schedule for upcoming meetings (Attachment B)* by C.**

Drummond, 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Racine, approval by all.

**8) New members:**

-There are currently 3 open spots with requirement that 60% should have science background. Continued need to recruit members by February deadline.

**9) Upcoming meeting topics:**

-Invasive species  
-Climate change communication

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

*Minutes Recorded by S. Racine & Submitted Electronically by C. Fox*

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## Attachment A

Roy E. Jacobsen <stjake45@aol.com>

Wed,

Dec 21, 2022 at 5:34 PM Reply-To: "Roy E. Jacobsen" <stjake45@aol.com>

To: editorial@thewesterlysun.com

Dear Editor:

The Westerly Sun news article "Charlestown could qualify for millions in infrastructure grant funding," Dec 19:is indeed good news for the people of Charlestown. The foresight of the previous town council laid the ground work by creating the Climate Resiliency Committee. This possible largess seeks to deal with serious climate and damaging change to our coastal town. All to the good but these funds needs to address something fundamental and what we cannot live without: Water. The serious and present and future threat is the availability of potable water supply to Charlestown residents. Charlestown and most of South County is totally dependent on wells. Many are so called "dug" or shallow wells under 30 feet in depth easily susceptible to pollution and salinization and drought. Many think this is just something which only affects coastal areas but it is also happening in the interior miles away. I suggest the resiliency funds made available to Charlestown be focused on a town wide survey and study of our present and future water supply.

We need to document failing wells looking to design a plan to preserve potability and access for present and future water supply needs. Work should start now in putting aside wellhead areas and purchasing water rights which could be tapped for potable water supply. Years back one such area was set aside in the Cross Mills neighborhood through the RI Water Supply Board, This water is ready to be tapped for this area and the Charlestown beach area. This is a model that needs to be repeated in other parts of Charlestown.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Jacobsen  
Charlestown  
860-916-7444

## **Attachment B**

### **CHARLESTOWN CLIMATE RESILIENCY COMMISSION 2023 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE**

2nd Thursday of the month

Charlestown Town Hall, Annex Conference  
Room 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown  
RI 02813

January 12, 2023

January 26, 2023 (provisional meeting on CBR CCBA)

February 9, 2023

March 9, 2023

April 20, 2023

May 11, 2023

June 8, 2023

July 13, 2023

August 10, 2023

September 14, 2023

October 12, 2023

November 9, 2023

December 14, 2023

2023 REGULAR MEETING schedule approved on 1/12/23

POSTED AT TOWN HALL	1/27/23	JJG
POSTED ON TOWN'S WEBSITE	1/27/23	JJG
POSTED ON SOS WEBSITE	1/27/23	JJG