

# Charlestown Climate Resiliency Commission

## 01/26/23 Special Meeting



- 1) **5:08 Call to Order**
- 2) **Attendance:** D. Prescott, S. Racine, C. Drummond, S. Cooper, C.Fox Guests: T.Ferrio;
- 3) **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to accept 12/12/2022 & 1/12/23 minutes by D. Prescott, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C. Drummond, approved by all
- 4) **Public Communications** *none received*
- 5) **Charlestown Beach Road Cost Benefit Analysis:** All commission members are comfortable in recommending RMA Environmental, L.L.C. as the lowest most qualified bidder to the Charlestown Town Council (***Motion to Recommend RMA: S.Racine, 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Drummond, approved by all***). Letter of recommendation to the Town Council for this firm (from the CCRC) has been drafted, reviewed, and commented on by all commission members. Consensus by all commissioners to deem the letter final and to transmit to the Town Council next week.
- 6) **Request for Budget:** Still unclear as to whether the Commission's budget will be required to support the consultant cost for the contract under item 4 above. The Commission has \$30,000 in funding to support nearly all of the contract cost. However, the Commission prefers to preserve some or all of that allocated funding for immerging needs. S. Cooper will continue to work with the Town Council to determine what, if any, level of cost sharing there will be (Town vs CCRC) as the Council moves to contracting with the CBA consultant. The Commission anticipates the infusion of an \$15,000 in funding to the Commission at the start of the budget year on 7/1/23. A minimum of \$5,000 will be needed for grant writing support alone. Motion to request \$15,000 for the CCRC for FY 23/24 from the Town by C.Drummond, 2<sup>nd</sup> by C.Fox, approved by all.
- 7) **Update on RI Infrastructure Bank Meeting:** Charlestown is now officially a Resilient Rhody Municipality. There is more money than ever available from the RIIB to offer Resilient Rhody communities through their grants and loan programs. Grants are focused on funding shovel ready projects. RFP release to apply for the grants will come in March 2023 with applications due on May. There is a 25% match requirement which can include in-kind, not just cash. S.Racine & D.Prescott reviewed the numerous proposed project criterion.

**8) Update on Potential New Commission Members:** The current commissioner limit is 7 commissioners. There are currently 3 open seats, with a requirement that 60% should have a science background. To date, two applications have been received by the Town. Two additional applications are expected by the February application deadline.

**Next Meeting Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 Annex Conference Room**

**Meeting Schedule Amended for the Month of March :  
Meeting will now be Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm.**

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.  
*Minutes Recorded & Submitted Electronically by C. Fox*

CHARLESTOWN CLIMATE RESILIENCY  
COMMISSION

2023 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE  
(amended 1/26/23)  
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~~ March 2, 2023 Changed at the 1/26/23 meeting due lack of attendance

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 01/12/2023

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## Attachment A

Roy E. Jacobsen <stjake45@aol.com>

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

To: editorial@thewesterlysun.com

Wed,

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

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POSTED AT TOWN HALL	1/30/23	JJG
POSTED ON TOWN'S WEBSITE	1/30/23	JJG
POSTED ON SOS WEBSITE	1/30/23	JJG