

Draft CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
May 27, 2014
Charlestown Town Hall
4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, F. Safford and R. Thieke.
Excused: K. Simoneau
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Tim Mooney of The Nature Conservancy attended the meeting to discuss the Charlestown Moraine proposed trail and also review what is being done to expand the trail system at Richard Trails.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
Motion to approve the minutes of April 22, 2014 by G. Klinger. 2nd: H. Hultgren. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: F. Safford.
Motion to approve the minutes of April 26, 2014 by H. Hultgren. 2nd: G. Klinger. Aye: L. Arnold, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: C. Connery and F. Safford.
Motion to amend the minutes of May 9, 2014 to change the word “east” to “south” and “Kingwood” to “Kingsland” and then to approve the amended minutes of May 9, 2014 by G. Klinger. 2nd: H. Hultgren. Aye: L. Arnold, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: C. Connery and F. Safford.
Motion to approve the minutes of May 18, 2014 by G. Klinger. 2nd: C. Connery. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: F. Safford.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **Report on Charlestown Moraine Preserve** – Commission members and Tim Mooney discussed the trail that had been laid out in the eastern section of the Preserve and which Tim had walked with a GPS. This preliminary trail is estimated to be about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long and will eventually be extended into the western section of the property. L. Arnold reported that the Public Works Dept. had staked out a 60 x 60 foot parking area along Kings Factory Road and estimates that the cost of preparing it as well as conducting an archeological study will be about \$13,000. L. Arnold will contact DEM about the procedures needed to apply for a grant to develop the trails and other work on the Preserve. L. Arnold will also advise the Town Council of the above work and issues and also provide them with a copy of Tim’s map.
- B. **South Farm Preserve**
- Horseback riding** – L. Arnold reported that she had contacted the Town Administrator and he has by letter advised the owners of the horse facility across the road from the Preserve that use of the Preserve would be limited to horseback riders and that for safety reasons they were no longer to use the woodland trails but just those trails on the two fields and that no lessons or commercial activity can be done on Town owned open space. Signs will be put up at the start of both the Wood and Woodland Trails indicating that is no horseback riding is allowed on them.
- Picnic Table** – L. Arnold will have a new six foot table delivered to F. Safford’s home for painting and then placement in the picnic area and she will ask Public Works Dept. to remove the three that are badly damaged.
- Work Day** – F. Safford agreed to do the needed work of weed-whacking around the parking area, stone walls and sauna.
- C. **Richard Trails** – R. Thieke reported that he and H. Hultgren had laid out a longer trail and that C. Connery had already brush-cut about 35 to 40% of it. Tim Mooney offered to walk the new trail and map it with his GPS. The rest of this trail will be brush-cut when time and weather permit.

- D.* **Monitoring of Schoolhouse Pond Preserve** – H. Hultgren agreed to do this in the near future. The sign and kiosk are being worked on and finalized soon.
- E.* **Monitoring Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp** – L. Arnold and G. Klinger will do this work in the near future.
- F.* **Arbor Day celebration** – L. Arnold reported that the celebration was a success and that a 5 foot tree was planted and each 4th grader received 2 seedlings. There was also a poster contest and certificates issued to those students with the best ones.
- G.* **Expenditures** - F. Safford made a motion to spend up to \$300 to purchase a weed-whacker for Commission use. 2nd: H. Hultgren. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, F Safford and R. Thieke. Nay: None. R. Thieke made a motion to spend up to \$350 to purchase a sign similar to those at the other preserves for “Charlestown Moraine Preserve” as well as an “Open Dawn to Dusk” sign. 2nd: F. Safford. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
- H.* **Well Water Workshop** -G. Klinger reported that’s she has placed posters in various places and is contacting a number of neighborhood associations. It will be held on June 24 from 7 to 8:00 PM at the Chariho Middle School.
- I.* **Affordable Housing Commission** – no report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A.* **RI Association of Conservation Commissions** – Motion by G. Klinger to approve payment of \$100 for annual dues. 2nd: R. Thieke. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
- B.* **CRMC Notice** - R. Thieke reported that we have been notified of an application to modify an existing residential boating facility at 187 Warren Road. No action required.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by H. Hultgren to adjourn. 2nd: C. Connery. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Nay: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N. Thieke
Secretary

Next regular meeting of the Commission at Town Hall will be on June 24, 2014 at 7:00 PM.