

**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL OPEN MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2016**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order in the Ninigret Park parking lot at 9:00 AM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: L. Arnold, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Excused: F. Safford and C. Connery.
- III. The commission monitored the following properties:
- AP 5 Lot 95, Post Road** (2.93 acres) – the property is level with Route 1 on the north side but drops off about 50 feet in from the road and a significant portion of the lower part of the property is wetlands. Overall it is very overgrown and there are a great many invasive plants. It is a wildlife habitat and absorbs a great deal of the runoff from Route 1. **There are several trees that have fallen or are leaning but they are in a heavily overgrown area and not a danger to anyone. There have been no significant changes since the last monitoring.**
- AP 5, Lot 95-4, Oyster Drive** (2.65 acres) – property was not viewed since access is through Sachem Passage Association land which signage forbids crossing. **In view of the questionable access and the fact that the east end of the property abuts the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, the Town should consider donation of the land as an addition to the Refuge.**
- AP 9, Lot 2, Charlestown Beach Rd** (0.29 acres) – this small property on the south side of the western end of Green Hill Pond is small and largely covered with various invasive plants. **No change since last monitoring.**
- AP 9, Lot 19, Charlestown Beach Rd** (0.02 acres) – this is an access path to the beach and is next to the driveway of the abutting property. The Town Council is considering sale of the property. **There is now snow fencing on both sides of the property and a “No Public Access” sign by the road access.**
- AP 9, Lot 42, Charlestown Beach Rd** (0.35 acres) – access path to the beach but the area is ill-defined and **should be surveyed for proper delineation and then a public access sign put in place. More sand than last monitoring but other than that no change since last monitoring.**
- AP 9, Lot 54, Charlestown Beach Rd** (1.05 acres) – valuable beach front property which had dunes covered with grasses but erosion on the beach side. No trail but beach access has been made by people through the property. Commission will consider placing Town of Charlestown Open Space signs along the property edge. **The damage from storm Sandy eroded much of the dune and the grasses were swept away or buried with the remaining dunes just along the road and mainly made up of sand plowed there when the road was cleared of sand. More sand than at last monitoring and the dunes are starting to come back. There also appears to be more grass.**
- AP 9, Lot 55, Charlestown Beach Rd** (0.11 acres) – beach access trail with erosion on ocean side. Commission will consider placing Town of Charlestown Open Space signs along the property edge. **Due to storm damage, the location of the Town owned access is unclear and should be re-surveyed. More sand but other than that no real change since last monitoring.**
- AP 9, Lot 56, Charlestown Beach Rd** (0.48 acres) - valuable beach front property which had dunes covered with grasses but erosion on the beach side. Commission will consider placing Town of Charlestown Open Space signs along the property edge. **The damage from storm Sandy eroded much of the dune and the grasses were swept away or buried with the remaining dunes just along the road and mainly made up of sand plowed there when the road was cleared of sand. More sand than at last monitoring and the dunes are starting to come back. There also appears to be more grass.**

AP 9, Lot 57, Charlestown Beach Rd (1.02 acres) - valuable beach front property which had dunes covered with grasses but erosion on the beach side. Commission will consider placing Town of Charlestown Open Space signs along the property edge. **The damage from storm Sandy eroded much of the dune and the grasses were swept away or buried with the remaining dunes just along the road and mainly made up of sand plowed there when the road was cleared of sand. More sand than at last monitoring and the dunes are starting to come back. There also appears to be more grass.**

AP 9, Lot 68, Charlestown Beach Rd (0.02 acres) - access path to the pond but the area is ill-defined and **should be surveyed for proper delineation and then a public access sign put in place.**

AP 9, Lot 399, Charlestown Beach Rd (3.99 acres) – property abuts the Breachway on the west and Ninigret Pond on the north. Partly under water. Public access on land only via deer trails through State owned property. Only true access to Town owned property is by water. **It appears that the property has recovered from storm Sandy.**

AP 11, Lot 349-1, East Shore Drive (0.07 acres) – drainage pipe runs through property which is totally overgrown by invasive plants. **No change since last monitoring.**

AP 16, Lot 67-28, Breton Dr. (1.59 acres) – man-made retention/drainage lot screened from the road by pine trees. A number of cat-o-nine-tails evident at the west end of the property. Should be an undivided interest of the owners in the development. **No change since last monitoring**

AP 16, Lot 67-29, Still Water Rd (0.80 acres) – non-accessible lot with a man-made retention/drainage lot. Should be an undivided interest of the owners in the development. **No change since last monitoring.**

AP 28, Lot 20, Carolina Back Rd (2.80 acres) – a portion of this property is a memorial park and part is drainage for the roads on both sides of the property. The property also contains Charlestown Historical Cemetery #1. There are a number of trees in the area dedicated to the memory of fallen soldiers of World War I. **The replacement tree planted 4 years ago appears healthy. No significant changes since last monitoring.**

AP 28, Lot 113-1, Old Shannock Rd (1.14 acres) – along the south side of the Pawcatuck River, this property is mainly wetlands. It is overgrown but serves as a buffer for the river. It is also a wildlife habitat. **Some tree damage but heavily overgrown and no danger to people.**

- a. The Commission noted that people have roped off parking areas in a number of lots along Charlestown Beach Road but it is not clear if any of them are on Town owned property.

IV. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

The Commission visited the Charlestown Moraine Preserve to see the progress being made installing the parking lot. They were pleased with the results so far and at their next meeting will schedule a date to complete the trails and install signage and the kiosk.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by H. Hultgren. 2nd: K. Simoneau. Aye: L. Arnold, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Thieke, Secretary

Next regular meeting of the Commission will be on January 26, 2016.