

**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**SPECIAL OPEN MEETING**  
**SITE WALK**  
**August 8, 2013**

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order along the Route 1 side of Assessor's Plat 17, Lot 186 remaining land at 4:05 AM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. ROLL CALL: Present: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Excused: G. Klinger and F. Safford.
- III. SITE WALK: The property consists of approximately 78 acres of rolling forest land along the north side of Route 1 and is one of the last undeveloped parts of the Charlestown Moraine. It is in close proximity to other forested and conserved land on both the northwest and southeast sides. The forest is dominated by oak and some birch, juniper and white pine trees with an extensive under story with fern beds and many well-developed very dense stands of mountain laurel. There are also several sunny grass covered areas. There are an extensive amount of invasive plants (autumn olive) along the Route 1 side but no significant amounts further into the property. There are wetlands in the eastern part of the property including a stream that drains to the south and seasonal depressions in several other areas that are vernal pool type areas. There are extensive amounts of fieldstone walls that go back to the colonial days when the area was used for grazing and farming. Only negative noted was the high traffic noise.

Being between the Burlingame Management Area on the west and Deep Pond, Schoolhouse Pond and other conserved areas to the east, it must be assumed that this property is well populated with various types of wildlife. It is also well recognized as being within the migration route and stopover habitat for many songbirds as well as a wintering area for raptors such as the northern bald eagle, red-tail hawk and American osprey. It is also a known area for both resident and migratory bat species.

- VI. ADVISORY OPINION: The parcel is of a significant size and has an interesting ecology and geology due to the Moraine but does not appear to lend itself to anything but passive recreation such as hiking and walking trails which would require significant effort to develop due to the dense under story in many areas. Location of parking areas would also need to be considered. Since the western side of the property is bordered by private landholdings and the northern side by Tribal land which almost bisects the property, to take full advantage of the property would require access from several other points – on the eastern side along Kings Factory Road to access the wetter eastern portions and on the south along Route 1 to access the areas to the west where the fieldstone walls and seasonal vernal pools are located.

From a geology, ecology and wildlife perspective, the property is considered worthy of conservation as open space. Motion by H. Hultgren to approve from a conservation perspective as open space. 2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Connery. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

- V. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by C. Connery. 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Simoneau. . Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

Meeting adjourned at 5.12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Richard Thieke, Secretary

The next regular meeting of the Commission will be August 27, 2013.