

**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**April 22, 2014**  
**Charlestown Town Hall**  
**4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and R. Thieke.  
Excused: F. Safford and K. Simoneau
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
Motion to approve the minutes of March 25, 2014 by G. Klinger. 2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Connery. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: H. Hultgren.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **Report on Charlestown Moraine Preserve** – L. Arnold reported that she had contacted The Nature Conservancy after the Town Council gave us permission to take up their offer to help lay out the parking area and trails. Commission members will be meeting with Tim Mooney of TNC to do this work on May 9 at 10:00AM.
- B. **South Farm Preserve**
- Horseback riding** – L. Arnold reported that a member of the public has complained that horseback riders have criticized him for having his dog off leash and spooking the horses along the woodland trails where there is little room for the two animals to get away from each other. R. Thieke also mentioned that the horses are doing some damage to these trails. Motion by H. Hultgren to have L. Arnold contact the Town Administrator requesting that he advise 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. 2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Connery. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
- Monitoring** – R. Thieke reported that he had monitored the Preserve on April 6, 2014 and that you can clearly see that horses use the field trails but there was little damage but that damage was more evident on the woodland trail where it is much narrower. He also reported that there was little winter damage other than a tree limb down near the sauna and some smaller limbs down in the cemetery. There was flooding on the woodland trail where it meets the south end of the Boy Scout Wood Trail. The Wood trail near the north end needs to be widened since in the wetter weather you have little choice but to walk in water thus the higher ground next to it should be cleared.
- Picnic Table** – Motion by H. Hultgren to purchase for not more than \$200 a six foot table to replace the damaged one. 2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Klinger. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
- Work Day** – agreed to meet on May 17, 2014 at 9:00AM (rain date May 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM) to do the needed clean-up and trail widening.
- C. **Richard Trails** – Agreed to meet on May 12, 2014 at 3:00 PM to do trail maintenance, create a new trail, blaze it and monitor the Preserve.
- D. **Monitoring of Schoolhouse Pond Preserve** – H. Hultgren agreed to do this.

- E. Monitoring Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp** – L. Arnold and G. Klinger will do this work.
- F. Arbor Day celebration** – L. Arnold reported that it is set for May 2, 2014 at 2:00 PM at the Charlestown Elementary School. Program will be for 4<sup>th</sup> graders and we will again distribute blue spruce seedlings to each student and plant a tree. The packets of seedlings with planting instructions for each student will be assembled by Commission members on April 30 at 4:00 PM. Motion by C. Connery to spend up to \$50 to purchase a six foot Fraser fir tree to be planted at the school. 2<sup>nd</sup>: H. Hultgren. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
- G. Disposal of Town Owner Property at AP9, Lot 19** – L. Arnold reported that the Town Council had discussed the sale of the property at their last meeting and will have an open bidding period for the property.
- H. Monitoring 16 Town Owner Properties** – Confirmed that this work will be done on April 26, 2014 starting at 9:00 AM (rain date April 27 at 2:00 PM). Meet at the Ninigret tennis courts for carpooling.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. RI Association of Conservation Commissions – discussed representation on this group and decided that we are spread too thin at this point to ask one of our members to attend the meeting of the Association which take place in Warwick.
- B. RI DEM Freshwater Wetlands Program – R. Thieke noted that we had received a notice from DEM about an application they are considering for permission to alter freshwater wetlands on a project located near utility pole 13 on Timber Ridge Road (AP 25, lot 40).

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by H. Hultgren to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Connery. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and R. Thieke. Nay: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N. Thieke  
Secretary

Next regular meeting of the Commission at Town Hall will be on May 27, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Special Meetings of the Commission will be held:

April 26, 2014 at 9:00 AM starting at Ninigret tennis court parking lot  
May 9, 2014 at 10:00 AM on Kings Factory Road side of Charlestown Moraine Preserve  
May 17, 2014 at 9:00 AM at South Farm Preserve.