

**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**January 20, 2015**  
**Charlestown Town Hall**  
**4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke.  
Excused: F. Safford
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
Motion to approve the minutes of November 25, 2014 by H. Hultgren. 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Simoneau. Aye: L. Arnold, G. Klinger, H. Hultgren and K. Simoneau. Nay: None. Abstain: C. Connery and R. Thieke. Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 10, 2015 by H. Hultgren. 2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Klinger. Aye: H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: L. Arnold and C. Connery.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **Report on Charlestown Moraine Preserve**
- a. L. Arnold reported that the issue of providing funds for trail clearance was discussed at the December 8, 2014 Town Council meeting and they approved the requested amount.
- b. L. Arnold reported that the Town Administrator indicated to her that the cost of creating the parking lot will be placed in the Town budget for the 2016 fiscal year.
- c. H. Hultgren and R. Thieke reported that they had walked the Preserve for the purpose of retracing the trail that they had previously marked and the Tim Mooney of The Nature Conservancy had plotted out for us. We found that many of the markings had broken off the branches to which they had been attached. This made it a little difficult to follow, but we had a good idea of where the original trail had been marked and only once did we stray before re-finding the markings. We walked the eastern triangle and found the property to be much as our earlier visits. The major exception is the amount of wind damage - trees down (some large and obviously rotted from within) and lots of twigs broken off (including many with orange or yellow plastic tape that had been placed to mark the trail.) With the leaves off the trees, it was easier to see the moraine features. The trail does not attempt to climb the steeper portion of the property, but rather follows parallel to it. The amount and size (height and girth) of the *Kalmia latifolia* (mountain laurel) is special. We added additional orange markers to the trail to fill in where tape had been blown down and where additional marking was needed. The trail will require extensive work – cutting up trees that are too large to step over or do not have room to go around; trimming understory plants where the path needs to go through them; and finally brush cutting the lower understory growth
- B. **Comprehensive Plan Re-write** – discussed the sections that we had (Natural Resources, Geography and Landforms) and what might need to be added or deleted in preparation for meeting with the consultant hired by the Town to assist with the re-write.
- C. **Offer by Mary Lucey to donate property to the Town** – discussed the offer and R. Thieke recapped what had been discussed at the Town Council meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> and that he had discussed with Ruth Platner and Jane Weidman doing a joint site walk since the Planning, Conservation, Parks & Rec Commissions, Town Planner, Building Official and Solicitor have been asked to do an advisory and report back to Council by February 9, 2015. The property abuts the Westerly Town Line and approximates 30 acres with two of the parcels next to each other and the third, smaller one, a bit away.

- D.* **Land and Water Conservation Summit** – registration forms and other information about the annual summit were handed out and members were encouraged to attend if at all possible.
- E.* **Monitoring of 16 Town-owned properties** – the minutes of the annual monitoring were discussed and it was agreed that the important thing was that the beach is coming back at all the south shore facing properties.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:** None

**VII. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N Thieke  
Secretary

Next regular meeting of the Commission at Town Hall will be on February 24, 2015 at 7:00 PM.