

Draft CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
January 22, 2013
CHARLESTOWN TOWN HALL
4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:08PM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. ROLL CALL: Present: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Excused: H. Hultgren.
- III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS: None
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Motion to approve the minutes of November 27, 2012 by G. Klinger. 2nd: F. Safford.
Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
Motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting on December 8, 2012 by C. Connery, 2nd: G. Klinger. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: F. Safford.
- V. OLD BUSINESS:
Reports from Commissioners
1. Congratulations were given to G. Klinger on her re-appointment to the Commission by the Town Council on January 14, 2013.
 2. Election of Officers – R. Thieke made a motion to elect L. Arnold as Chairperson of the Commission, G. Klinger as Vice-Chairperson. 2nd: F. Safford. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None. F. Safford made a motion to elect R. Thieke as Secretary of the Commission. 2nd: G. Klinger. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
 3. South Farm Preserve - the Nick Wollenberg Eagle Scout Project – L. Arnold will get and complete all remaining paperwork for the project which will be done in the spring.
 4. Richard Trails
 - a. Trail update – R. Thieke reported that a trail of about ½ mile was laid out but the tape marking half of it was removed (presumably by hunters) before it could be cleared. It will be redone when weather permits.
 - b. C. Connery reported that he had cleared the part of the trail where the tape had not been removed and will do the rest when, once again, laid out.
 - c. Open Dawn to Dusk sign – R. Thieke made a motion to authorize L. Arnold to spend up to \$50 for a 6 inch by 24 inch sign saying on both sides “Open Dawn to Dusk.” 2nd: K. Simoneau. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
 - d. L. Arnold reported that she had a call from Tim Mooney of The Nature Conservancy indicating that he had monitored Richard Trails and liked the trail that he saw and looks forward to seeing it completed.
 5. Site Maps for “Church Woods” (AP 13 Lots 42, 43, 44 and 50-3) and “Shannock Village Cottages” (AP 28 Lot 164) – L. Arnold received the maps from the Town Planner and the Commission members reviewed and discussed the master plans. On “Church Woods” it was noted that the plans now appear to show a different layout from what we were originally told but that from a conservation perspective there was nothing that should stop the project. It is hoped that provisions will be made for water runoff from the buildings and roadways and, where possible, especially at the rear and side perimeters of the site, that shrubs, trees and natural features can be retained to screen the property from the neighbors. On “Shannock Village Cottages” the plans were reviewed and noted that the plans seemed well conceived and took into consideration the considerable wetlands and slopes down to the Pawcatuck River and that pervious roadways are contemplated.

6. Arbor Day – April 26 – will explore ideas on what to do this year and discuss at our next meeting.
7. Additional business:
 - a. South Farm reimbursement – L. Arnold indicated that the Acting Town Administrator is getting ready to submit paperwork for the final reimbursement on the grant and wished to know what in-kind work was done by Town employees and volunteers. L. Arnold will get the Town provided work information from the Public Works Dept. As to volunteer hours, over the course of the work done there with on average 3 to 4 people in attendance, about 350 hours were provided and included working on maintenance, cemetery renovation, repairing and clearing stone walls, removing shrubbery and brush, maintaining and cutting trails and the building of a kiosk and signage.
 - b. F. Safford made a motion requesting that L. Arnold talk with personnel at Town Hall about developing a map of the Town showing all of the open space or conserved property and who owns it – Town, State, Federal, Native Americans, not-for-profits, etc. 2nd: C. Connery. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: None

Land & Water Conservation Summit (March 9, 2013) – information was given to the members of the Commission and applications to attend completed. L. Arnold, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke are planning to attend.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N. Thieke
Secretary

Next regular Commission meeting will be held on February 26, 2013