

**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**January 24, 2017**  
**Charlestown Town Hall**  
**4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by G. Klinger, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: G. Klinger, C. Connery, K. Simoneau, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Excused: H. Hultgren.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Dr. Lisa Tewksbury.  
Dr. Tewksbury (Lisa) is the Research Associate at URI dealing with remedies to contain black swallowwort. Lisa and her team have been in contact with the Commission for some time and have been using South Farm Preserve as the source of plants used for testing remedies to stop the spread of this invasive plant. It is her hope and expectation that the US Dept. of Agriculture will issue a permit this spring for testing (May is best time for release). This will involve release of a caterpillar species that feeds only on the seeds, pods and foliage of the swallowwort. Plans would be to use a test area to monitor the speed and success of the caterpillars. Lisa will provide us with a complete explanation of the proposed test for our review and presentation to the Town Council for approval. Canada has already completed all their testing and released caterpillars with success but approval in the US has been slowed by US Fish & Wildlife testing of any effects on other species (none found).
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of November 25, 2016 meeting was made by C. Connery. 2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Klinger. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: F. Safford and K. Simoneau.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. Report on Charlestown Moraine Preserve**
    - a. New Trail – C. Connery reported that the trail in the western section of the Preserve has been cut and is being used. Due to weather and temperature the blazing of the trail will be done in the spring.
    - b. New maps – C. Connery and R. Thieke have asked S. McCandless to provide us with updated maps.
  - B. Report on South Farm Preserve**
    - a. Picnic table near barn – will move it to the picnic area near kiosk.
    - b. ATV – G. Klinger reported that it appears people used an ATV on the fields and we will need to monitor that to preclude any more incidents.
  - C. Report on Schoolhouse Pond Preserve**
    - a. Kiosk – will be installed in the spring
  - D. Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve**
    - a. Parking Lot – G. Klinger will contact Public Works to determine if they have a date to clear for this.
  - E. Richard Trails**
    - a. Closed Trail – in the spring we will clear downed or leaning trees.
  - F. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**
    - a. Establish List of Need Work on Each Preserve – all are now in good shape and we will work on a list for the spring.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
- A. Reappointments**

Motion by G. Klinger to recommend to the Town Council the reappointment of H. Hultgren, F. Safford and K. Simoneau to the Commission. 2<sup>nd</sup>: R. Thieke.

Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery and R. Thieke. Abstain: F. Safford and K. Simoneau.

**B. Monitoring Town Owned Properties**

Agreed to meet on February 18, 2017 at 9:00 AM at the Ninigret Park tennis courts to form carpools.

**C. Land and Water Conservation Summit at URI**

K. Simoneau and R. Thieke plan to attend and motion was made by C. Connery to cover the \$50 per person fee for attendance. 2<sup>nd</sup>: F. Safford. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

**D. CRMC Notices**

Reviewed request from Christopher Brett and Lauren Ann Clark (15 Founders Way) for approval of a ramp and 4 x 10 foot fixed pier on Green Hill Pond.

**E. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS: None**

**VII MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None**

**VIII ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Richard N Thieke, Secretary

Next Commission Meeting on February 28, 2017 at Town Hall at 7:00 PM

Next Special Meeting on February 18 at Ninigret Park Tennis Courts at 9:00 AM for carpooling to monitor Town-owned properties.