

CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
January 28, 2014
Charlestown Town Hall
4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. ROLL CALL: Present: L. Arnold, H. Hultgren, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Excused: C. Connery, G. Klinger and K. Simoneau.
- III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS: L. Arnold introduced Ernest Morreira who is the Affordable Housing Commission liaison to the Conservation Commission.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2013 by H. Hultgren. 2nd: L. Arnold.
Aye: L. Arnold, H. Hultgren and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: F. Safford.
- V. OLD BUSINESS
- A. Presentation by E. Morreira about what the Affordable Housing Commission is doing and how they would like to work with us. We reiterated that we have already worked with his Commission in walking and opining on selected sites from a conservation perspective. He indicated that the Town needs 285 more units to meet State requirements. F. Safford will be our liaison to Affordable Housing Commission.
 - B. Richard Trails – tabled to our February meeting the scheduling of a time to blaze and work on a new trail.
 - C. Monitoring 16 Town Owned Properties – tabled to our February meeting the scheduling of a time to monitor these properties.
 - D. Charlestown Moraine Preserve Management Plan – reviewed the response received from the Town Planner and Planning Commission. Agreed to restate that the money to purchase the property came from open space *and recreation* bond funds. Decided not to revise the background description as in their response. Decided not to include establishment of a trailhead along Prosser trail since it would appear to only favor neighbors to the exclusion of the general public since there would be no parking facility and would require either purchase or an easement over private property. Agreed to add *hunting as a prohibited activity* but not to allow horseback riding or mountain bikes since in our view the terrain is too hilly and densely treed and also we have concerns about erosion and needed trail widths. Also a parking lot large enough to accommodate horse trailer is not contemplated. Agreed to include the suggested five exceptions to tree cutting (*managed removal of invasive species, creation and maintenance of trails, protecting stone walls, managing the health of the forest and changes deemed by Conservation Commission to enhance the use and proper management of the Preserve*). Agreed to change the paragraph concerning pesticides/biocides as follows –“*Except as necessary to control invasive species in accordance with this Management Plan, there shall be no use of pesticides or biocides, including but not limited to insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides and herbicides. No devices such as “bug zappers” may be used.*” Agreed not to rewrite the paragraph concerning building or structures but to add to it that benches and kiosks and signs may be added for informational and educational purposes. Motion to approve revised draft Management Plan for the Charlestown Moraine Preserve as the final by H. Hultgren. 2nd: F. Safford. Aye: L. Arnold, H. Hultgren, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS:
- A. Land and Water Conservation Summit will be held at URI on March 8, 2014 and as many Commission members as possible will attend.

- B. CRMC Public Notice – R. Thieke reported that we have been notified that CRMC is considering an application for permission to construct and maintain a 0.75 acre oyster farm in Quonochontaug Pond.
- C. Election of Officers: Motion by H. Hultgren to appoint L. Arnold as Chair, G. Klinger as Vice-Chair and R. Thieke as Secretary. 2nd: F. Safford. Aye: L. Arnold, H. Hultgren, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by H. Hultgren to adjourn. 2nd: R. Thieke. Aye: L. Arnold, H. Hultgren, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N. Thieke
Secretary

Next regular meeting of the Commission at Town Hall will be on February 25, 2014 at 7:00 PM.