

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by G. Klinger, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: G. Klinger, S. Griffin, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Excused: C. Connery, G. Gardiner and F. Safford.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Jonathan Hammett attended and updated the Commission on the Conceptual Trail Loop/Foot Trail. He indicated that the currently proposed trail is approximately 25 miles long and is a foot trail. It goes through South Farm, touches the edge of Richard Trails and also goes through the Moraine Preserve. It also goes across the Carter Preserve and a good deal of the Burlingame State Management Area. The “connections” between the various preserved areas are on roads ranging from Routes 1, 2 and 112 to Town roads such as Narrow Lane, Old Coach Rd and Prosser Trail. As to areas under the management of the Conservation Commission, we asked that the trail at South Farm be moved so that it uses the eastern end trail on the south field and the woodland trail nearest the road and that at the Moraine the trail be reconfigured to allow exit onto Route 1 at the point where the existing trail is closest to the level of Rte. 1 rather than as proposed; namely, at the western end where it would involve walkers doing down a very steep hill.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of September 26, 2017 meeting was made by S. Griffin. 2nd: K. Simoneau. Aye: G. Klinger, S. Griffin and K. Simoneau. Nay: None. Abstain: R. Thieke.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **Charlestown Moraine Preserve**
 - a. Trail Maintenance – G. Klinger reported that G. Gardiner had walked he trails and they are in good shape.
 - B. **South Farm Preserve**
 - a. Black Swallow Wort – G. Klinger reported that URI had set up two cages for testing at South Farm. No reports from URI yet.
 - b. Volunteer workday – R. Thieke reported that a group of 10 from St. Andrew Lutheran Church came to the Farm on Sep 30 and did a clean-up of the area around the parking lot, cemetery, barn, and sauna and cleared the woodland trails of fallen debris and cutback on vegetation.
 - C. **Schoolhouse Pond Preserve**
 - a. Kiosk – F. Safford will coordinate with Public Works a date to install.
 - b. Trail and Road Maintenance – Trail was walked on Oct 11 and cleared of debris. G. Klinger has asked Public Works Dept. to fill in some of the deeper depressions along the road into the Preserve and it will be taken care of shortly.
 - D. **Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve**
 - a. Parking Lot – G. Klinger has spoken with the Town Administrator and Public Works and a date for parking lot installation will be set shortly.
 - E. **Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp–**
 - a. K. Simoneau will get caps and place them on the road sign.
 - F. **Richard Trails**
 - a. Trail Maintenance – agreed to meet on October 25th at 9:00 am to do trail work. G. Gardiner has removed a tree leaning over one of the trails but all trails will be checked for any other issues and also do any pruning that needs to be done.
 - G. **Additional Old Business** – None

VI NEW BUSINESS

- A. Potential Sale of Groundwater by the Tribe** – It was noted that this issue has been taken up by the Town Council and Town Solicitor since here is concern about the amount of water involved and the effects that would have on the aquifer.
- B. CRMC Notice** – we have been advised that East Beach Farms LLC has requested permission to modify their existing oyster lease in Ninigret Pond to allow installation of two 60 meter suspended kelp lines to grow sugar kelp from November 1 through April 30 when the oysters are dormant.
- C. Motion to approve the minutes of October 11, 2017 meeting** was made by S. Griffin. 2nd: K. Simoneau. Aye: G. Klinger, S. Griffin, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

VII MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

VIII ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by K. Simoneau to adjourn. 2nd: S. Griffin. Aye: G. Klinger, S. Griffin K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard N. Thieke Secretary

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