

CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 22, 2016
Charlestown Town Hall
4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by G. Klinger, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: G. Klinger, C. Connery and R. Thieke.. Excused: H. Hultgren, F. Safford and K. Simoneau.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Robert Malin who was interested in learning what the Commission does attended as did Gary Gardiner who is awaiting Town Council approval to become a member of the Commission.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of October 25 and November 5, 2016 was made by C. Connery. 2nd: G. Klinger. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Report on Charlestown Moraine Preserve**
 - a. Trail Maintenance – C. Connery reported that 4 volunteers joined Commission members on November 5th to clear the trail of any fallen limbs and trim back bordering brush.
 - b. Laying Out of New Trail – C. Connery reported that Commission members and Steve McCandless marked off a trail in the western section of the Preserve.
 - B. **Report on South Farm Preserve**
 - a. Picnic table near barn – will move it to the picnic area near kiosk.
 - b. Trail Maintenance – G. Klinger reported that F. Topping has cut back the vegetation along the woodland trails.
 - C. **Report on Schoolhouse Pond Preserve**
 - a. Kiosk – will be installed in the spring
 - b. Trail Maintenance – On November 5 Commission members and volunteers walked the trails and cut back vegetation and removed limbs from the trails.
 - D. **Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve**
 - a. Parking Lot – G. Klinger reported that the Town Administrator informed her that the Public Works Dept. will put in the parking lot as soon as they have the time available.
 - E. **Richard Trails**
 - a. Trail Maintenance – C. Connery and G. Gardiner walked all the trails and indicated that they appear to be in good shape and getting a lot of use. There are some tree stumps on the trails and they will cut them to ground level and blow the leaves and acorns off the trails when all the leaves are down.
 - b. Closed Trail – C. Connery reported that the Closed sign has been removed and that people are walking around the downed trees but that there is one area where people are walking under large oak trees that are leaning and hung up. AR. Thieke will place a new Closed sign where the old one was.
 - 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 at our next meeting.
 - b. Motion of approve the minutes of September 27, 2016 by G. Klinger. 2nd: C. Connery. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Trail Clearing

- a. Motion by C. Connery to pay \$2,260 to Larlham Landscaping to brush cut and clear trees/limbs from the new trail in the western portion of the Moraine Preserve. 2nd: R. Thieke. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
- b. GPS – C. Connery will contact S. McCandless when the trail is cleared so that he can go in with the GPS and prepare a map for the kiosk and also for handouts.

B. Budget request for next fiscal year – discussed it and will request an increase in our budget due to the fact that we now have responsibility for six properties versus only four in prior years and that more work needs to be done. Specifically, we will request \$4500 to be used as follows: \$1000 brush cutting maintenance of trails, \$700 for split rail fencing for Sprague Preserve, 1,800 for Sprague kiosk plus \$600 shipping, \$300 for maps and brochures, \$200 for Arbor Day observation.

C. Black Swallow Wort

- a. Lisa Tewksbury will be invited to our next meeting to discuss this invasive.

D. CRMC Notices

- a. Reviewed request from Matthew Behan to create and maintain a two acre storage site for oyster cages in Ninigret Pond
- b. Reviewed request from Matthew Behan to create and maintain a 1.5 acre expansion to an existing oyster farm in Ninigret Pond using cages and racks as the grow-out method.

VII MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

VIII ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by C. Connery to adjourn. 2nd: R. Thieke. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery and R. Thieke.
Nay: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard N Thieke, Secretary

Next Commission Meeting on January 24, 2017 at Town Hall at 7:00 PM

