

# CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## SPECIAL OPEN MEETING

December 8, 2012

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order in the Ninigret Park parking lot at 9:00 AM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. ROLL CALL: Present: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and R. Thieke. Excused: F. Safford and K. Simoneau.
- III. The commission monitored the following properties:
  - a. **AP 5 Lot 95, Post Road** (2.93 acres) – the property is level with Route 1 on the north side but drops off about 50 feet in from the road and a significant portion of the lower part of the property is wetlands. Overall it is very overgrown and there are a great many invasive plants. It is a wildlife habitat and absorbs a great deal of the runoff from Route 1. **The only change since our monitoring last year is storm damage to several trees caused by the storm named Sandy but the trees are in a heavily overgrown area and not a danger to anyone.**
  - b. **AP 5, Lot 95-4, Oyster Drive** (2.65 acres) – property was not viewed since access is through Sachem Passage Association land which signage forbids crossing. In view of the questionable access and the fact that the east end of the property abuts the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, the Town should consider donation of the land as an addition to the Refuge.
  - c. **AP 9, Lot 2, Charlestown Beach Rd** (0.29 acres) – this small property on the south side of the western end of Green Hill Pond is small and largely covered with various invasive plants. **No change since last monitoring.**
  - d. **AP 9, Lot 19, Charlestown Beach Rd** (0.02 acres) – this is an access path to the beach and is next to the driveway of the abutting property without delineation. The Commission will consider placing a sign indicating public access but needs an accurate survey of the path location and width before doing so. **Due to storm Sandy damage, delineation between the Town owned property and the private property is unclear and should be re-surveyed.**
  - e. **AP 9, Lot 42, Charlestown Beach Rd** (0.35 acres) – access path to the beach but the area is ill-defined and should be surveyed for proper delineation and then a public access sign put in place. **Due to storm Sandy damage, the location of the Town owned access is unclear and should be re-surveyed.**
  - f. **AP 9, Lot 54, Charlestown Beach Rd** (1.05 acres) – valuable beach front property **which had** dunes covered with grasses but erosion on the beach side. No trail but beach access has been made by people through the property. Commission will consider placing Town of Charlestown Open Space signs along the property edge. **The damage from storm Sandy has eroded much of the dune, the grasses are gone or buried and greatly enlarged the beach. The remaining dunes are just along the road and mainly made up of sand plowed there when the road was cleared of sand.**
  - g. **AP 9, Lot 55, Charlestown Beach Rd** (0.11 acres) – beach access trail with erosion on ocean side. Commission will consider placing Town of Charlestown Open Space signs along the property edge. **Due to storm Sandy damage, the location of the Town owned access is unclear and should be re-surveyed.**
  - h. **AP 9, Lot 56, Charlestown Beach Rd** (0.48 acres) - valuable beach front property **which had** dunes covered with grasses but erosion on the beach side. Commission will consider placing Town of Charlestown Open Space signs along the property edge. **The damage from storm Sandy has eroded much of the dune, the grasses are gone or buried and greatly enlarged the beach. The remaining dunes are just along the road and mainly made up of sand plowed there when the road was cleared of sand.**

- i. **AP 9, Lot 57, Charlestown Beach Rd** (1.02 acres) - valuable beach front property **which had** dunes covered with grasses but erosion on the beach side. Commission will consider placing Town of Charlestown Open Space signs along the property edge. **The damage from storm Sandy has eroded much of the dune, the grasses are gone or buried and greatly enlarged the beach. The remaining dunes are just along the road and mainly made up of sand plowed there when the road was cleared of sand.**
- j. **AP 9, Lot 68, Charlestown Beach Rd** (0.02 acres) - access path to the pond but the area is ill-defined and should be surveyed for proper delineation and then a public access sign put in place. **Due to storm Sandy damage, the location of the Town owned access is unclear and should be re-surveyed.**
- k. **AP 9, Lot 399, Charlestown Beach Rd** (3.99 acres) – property abuts the Breachway on the west and Ninigret Pond on the north. Partly under water. Public access on land only via deer trails through State owned property. Only true access to Town owned property is by water. **Appears that more of the property is now under water although we are uncertain if this is true since we do not know what the tide level was when we viewed the property last year.**
- l. AP 11, Lot 349-1, East Shore Drive (0.07 acres) – drainage pipe runs through property which is totally overgrown by invasive plants. **No change since last monitoring.**
- m. AP 16, Lot 67-28, Breton Dr. (1.59 acres) – man-made retention/drainage lot screened from the road by pine trees. A number of cat-o-nine-tails evident at the west end of the property. Should be an undivided interest of the owners in the development. **No change since last monitoring. There is a tree at about a 45 degree angle which should be taken down but it is uncertain if it is on this property or Lot 67-29.**
- n. AP 16, Lot 67-29, Still Water Rd (0.80 acres) – non-accessible lot containing a man-made retention/drainage lot. Should be an undivided interest of the owners in the development. **No change since last monitoring**
- o. AP 28, Lot 20, Carolina Back Rd (2.80 acres) – a portion of this property is a memorial park and part is drainage for the roads on both sides of the property. The property also contains Charlestown Historical Cemetery #1. There are a number of trees in the area dedicated to the memory of fallen soldiers of World War I. **The replacement tree planted last year appears healthy. One modest sized tree was felled by storm Sandy and several trees should be watched since they are leaning toward the secondary road.**
- p. AP 28, Lot 113-1, Old Shannock Rd (1.14 acres) – along the south side of the Pawcatuck River, this property is mainly wetlands. It is overgrown but serves as a buffer for the river. It is also a wildlife habitat. **There was some damage by storm Sandy – mainly tree branches in the heavily overgrown areas.**

IV. The Commission agreed that it will **continue to** monitor these properties, except for AP5, Lot 95-4, on a regular basis.

V. **The Commission discussed the budget for fiscal 2013 and decided not to request an increase.**

VI. Motion to adjourn by H. Hultgren. 2<sup>nd</sup>: G. Klinger. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and R. Thieke.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

Richard Thieke, Secretary

The next regular meeting of the Commission will be January 22, 2013.