

CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
February 25, 2020
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, L. Macalister, S. Griffin and R. Thieke. Excused: C. Connery, G. Gardiner and K. Simoneau.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Deb Carney, Town Council Vice President attended
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of January 28,2020 made by G. Klinger. 2nd: L. Macalister. Aye: G. Klinger, L. Macalister, S. Griffin and R. Thieke Nay: None.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve** – K. Simoneau will continue to periodically monitor and remove trash.
 - B. **Charlestown Moraine Preserve**
 - a. Preserve trails need to be walked to determine if there are any blowdowns that need to be cleared from the trails.
 - C. **Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve**
 - a. Work Day – May 2, 2020 at 9:00 AM.
 - b. Access for equipment – G. Klinger, C. Connery and R. Thieke looked at the alternative possible entrance and determined that it was to treed and covered with large rocks to allow access and it was decided to use the existing entrance over the stone wall. C. Connery will consult with Matt Larlham about the feasibility and cost of moving some of the rocks and any other work needed to allow equipment in.
 - c. L. Macalister reported that there have been a number of blowdowns off the trails but three on or over the trails that should be removed. If necessary, professionals will be hired to do the work.
 - D. **Richard Trails Preserve**
 - a. Preserve trails need to be walked to determine if there are any blowdowns that need to be cleared from the trails.
 - b. Southern Pine Beetle Trapping – URI report for the 2019 season indicated that none were found at the Preserve.
 - E. **Schoolhouse Pond Preserve**
 - a. G. Klinger reported that several trees are down and should be removed from the trails. R. Thieke reported that there is also a tree leaning over the access road and that Public Works has hired Rocco Tree Service to take it down.
 - F. **South Farm Preserve**
 - a. Black Swallow-wort 2019 Results – experiment had some positive results with the Hypena opulenta adults successfully producing larvae which caused noticeable damage to swallow-wort plants at all release sites but that there was insufficient daylight at the test sites to allow viable reproduction. Tests will be done again this year at sites and times when there is more natural light.
 - G. **Additional Old Business**
 - a. AllTrails.com and ExploreRI.org – L. Macalister is working on getting information about all the trails on Town-owned preserves on these sites.
 - b. Town Website – Deb Carney reported that the Town website is being reworked and access to our trail maps will be made much more readily available.

VI NEW BUSINESS

A. CRMC Notices - None

B. Land and Water Conservation Summit at URI – March 7, 2020

- a. L. Macalister will attend.

C. Additional New Business

- a. Narragansett Trail Restoration Project – G. Klinger attended on our behalf along with S. McCandless and the Town Administrator as well as several people from Hopkinton Conservation Commission, Charlestown Land Trust and Appalachian Mountain Club. Project is just getting started in Rhode Island and the intent of the meeting was to give an overview and develop interest and discover any potential problems. While the trail does go through parts of the Carter Preserve and Pasquisset Pond Preserve, it only touches South Farm in an area of wetlands and all participants were made aware of that. No commitments of time or funds were discussed and we will await further developments.

VII MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: - None

VIII ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N. Thieke, Secretary

Next regular Commission Meeting on April 28 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.