

**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**March 13, 2012**  
**CHARLESTOWN TOWN HALL**  
**4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813**

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. ROLL CALL: Present: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Excused: G. Klinger.
- III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS: Cassidy Swanson from The Westerly Sun attended the meeting and L. Arnold welcomed her.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 24, 2012 by H. Hultgren with the following correction – add to Va6 “H. Hultgren made a motion to spend up to \$100 for signs. 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Simoneau. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.” 2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Connery. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.  
Motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of January 30, 2012 by C. Connery. 2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Arnold. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery and R. Thieke. Abstain: H. Hultgren, F. Safford and K. Simoneau. Nay: None.
- V. OLD BUSINESS:  
A. Reports from Commissioners
1. Rhode Island Land & Water Conservation Summit – L. Arnold reported that the Summit was held on March 10, 2012 and that she, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger and K. Simoneau attended. The power point presentation made by H. Hultgren on our activities and responsibilities was well received and the interchange of ideas with other Commissions was very good.
  2. YMCA property – L. Arnold reported that the Town Council had heard our advisory opinion as well as the recommendations for or against the acquisition from a number of people but decided to go forward with the project.
  3. Arbor Day – Agreed to observe this on April 27, 2012 at noon at AP 28, Lot 20 (Carolina Back Road). At our December 17, 2011 meeting at this site we observed that one of the memorial trees is rotting out and we felt that it should be taken down. H. Hultgren made a motion to replace the tree on Arbor Day and dedicate the new tree to the memory of John E. Carroll as the current tree is. 2<sup>nd</sup>: F. Safford. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None. L. Arnold will send a memo to the Town Council to request that the Public Works Dept. take down the old tree so that we can plant a new one. C. Connery will have recommendations as to the type tree to plant and estimated costs by our meeting on March 27, 2012. Attempts will be made to locate any relatives of Mr. Carroll and invite them to the ceremony.
  4. L. Arnold reported receipt of an e-mail from Jay Primiano, Parks & Rec Director, regarding offering assistance on transplanting some blueberry bushes in Ninigret Park as a belated Arbor Day event on May 12, 2012. It was discussed and decided that since we are already planning an Arbor Day event we would only help out as and if members of the Commission can. Jay also wrote about talking with RIDOT about the situation along the “Scenic Highway” and all of the invasives, the larger trees and a possible rain garden for the highway runoff. F. Safford will talk with Jay regarding whether the area under discussion is on Town or State property, the scope of the project, need for special types of plants and so forth. He will report back to us at our next meeting.
  5. South Farm

- a. R. Thieke reported that someone somehow managed to open one of the barn windows even though it is at least 10 feet off the ground. He has closed it but it is again a mischievous incident on South Farm
  - b. L. Arnold discussed the use by the horseback riders of all the North Field trails and it was decided that at our spring workday at the Farm we will consider placing some of the trails off limits to horses and putting another trail in diagonally across the field from the southeast corner to the horse entrance trail.
6. Eagle Scout project for Nick Wollenberg – Nick has been informed of the proposed project of staining the barn and will arrange to meet and discuss it with plans to complete the project in the spring.
  7. Richards Trails – Decided to do a site walk on April 28, 2012 at 3:00 PM to scope out where the first trail should be. Steve MacAndless from the Town and Tim Mooney from the Nature Conservancy will be asked to come as well.
  8. Well Water Workshop – will be held on May 3, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Cross Mills Library.
  9. Beach Structures ad hoc Committee – F. Safford reported that the framing is up and the roof on at the Town Beach building and the deck is in and the ramp being built at Blue Shutters. The project is on schedule and should come in under budget.
  10. Rain Barrel Project – Barrels will be distributed on June 9, 2012 from 9:00 AM to noon. Information flyers are at Town Hall.
  11. Schoolhouse Pond – F. Safford is working on the sign and H. Hultgren the kiosk and they should be available or installation later this spring.
  12. Trees along Narrow Lane – R Thieke reported a call from a concerned citizen regarding the taking down of the four large trees in front of Dunkin Donuts and whether that violated the Tree Ordinance. After research, it appears the trees are on private property and within the rights of the landowner to take them down and not subject to the provisions of the Ordinance.
  13. Property Survey – In the minutes of the December 17, 2011 monitoring of Town owned property, it was noted that several accesses through Town property from Charlestown Beach Road to the beach were not clearly marked. L. Arnold will request that the Town Council arrange for confirmation of the exact locations so that signs can be put in place.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Geocaching at South Farm – The site has had a number of visits and favorable comments have been made. We will consider adding several more since it is a good way to advertise the property. In the future we will consider adding other sites at other Town owned property.
- B. Commission Sponsored Walks – We will consider doing this at both South Farm and Schoolhouse Pond at our next meeting.
- B. L. Arnold read a letter from Sherry Lee W Hagen Green about the lighting issue at Ninigret Park and how it will impact Frosty Drew Observatory

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Motion by H. Hultgren to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Connery. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N. Thieke  
Secretary

Next regular Commission meeting will be held on March 27, 2012