

CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
March 28, 2017
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, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Excused: K. Simoneau.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None,
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2017 meeting was made by C. Connery. 2nd: G. Klinger. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: F. Safford. Motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2017 by F. Safford. 2nd: G. Klinger. Aye: G. Klinger, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: C. Connery.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. **Report on Charlestown Moraine Preserve**
 - a. Trail Work for spring – will meet on April 26 at 9:00 AM to blow leaves off trail, blaze new trail and determine what additional work needs to be done.
 - b. New maps – R. Thieke has asked S. McCandless to join us on April 26 with the GPS so as to provide us with updated maps.
 - B. **Report on South Farm Preserve**
 - a. Picnic table near barn – C. Connery will move it to the picnic area near kiosk.
 - b. Work for spring – C. Connery and G. Klinger will check as to what needs to be done and also walk the woodland trail to remove any fallen trees obstructing the trail.
 - C. **Report on Schoolhouse Pond Preserve**
 - a. Kiosk – will be installed in the spring when H. Hultgren returns to RI.
 - b. Work for spring – Trail maintenance. K. Simoneau reported that there have been a number of blowdowns over the winter. Will schedule work day at April meeting.
 - D. **Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve**
 - a. Parking Lot – G. Klinger contacted Public Works and found that this project is in the Town budget as a capital project with a May to July timeline for completion.
 - b. Signage – R. Thieke reported that the sign for the roadside has been made along with “Open Dawn to Dusk” signs for here and South Farm. Motion by R. Thieke to pay Graphics Unlimited \$445.54 for the signs. 2nd: F. Safford. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
 - c. Trail map – R. Thieke will discuss with S. McCandless getting a trail map made for the kiosk and distribution to visitors and also to help us determine the areas where the current trail system goes onto abutter’s property. Hopefully this can also be done on April 26th.
 - d. Work for spring – general cleanup and trail maintenance and creation of a new trail around abutter property and fencing off the current trail in that area. Will discuss at April or May meeting.
 - E. **Richard Trails**
 - a. Closed Trail – C. Connery and G. Gardiner will clear downed or leaning trees in early May.
 - b. ATV use – C. Connery and G. Klinger will walk the trails to see the extent of damage and what steps might be taken to stop it. They will also determine what additional work needs to be done and will discuss at our April meeting.

VI NEW BUSINESS

- A. Land and Water Conservation Summit at URI** – R. Thieke reported that he attended this annual event and attended sessions on salt marsh migration and invasive species. On salt marsh migration the problem is ongoing since the sea is rising at three times the rate of marsh growth and that the measures being taken in Ninigret and other barrier type areas is an attempt to maintain barriers so as to delay the erosion of coastal areas. As to invasives, the most common ones in RI were touched upon. Of special interest was the discussion of black swallow wart and the efforts the Nature Conservancy has been putting into the eradication of it on Block Island with, so far, not that much success.
- B. Aquaculture Informational Session** – noted that there will be an informational public meeting on June 29th at the Coastal Resources Center at the URI Bay Campus concerning aquaculture and its future in RI. Much of the discussion will focus on the 5% rule for the coastal ponds.
- C. Annual Trail and Maintenance Day – June 3** – we will discuss at our April meeting.
- D. Well Water Workshop** – G. Klinger reported that she has arranged with A. McCann to hold this year’s workshop on June 20 at the Cross Mills Library

VII MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

VIII ADJOURNMENT:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard N Thieke, Secretary

Next Commission Meeting on April 25, 2017 at Town Hall at 7:00 PM

Next Special Commission Meeting on April 26, 2017 at Charlestown Moraine Preserve at 9:00 AM.