

CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
April 24, 2012
CHARLESTOWN TOWN HALL
4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. ROLL CALL: Present: L. Arnold, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Excused: C. Connery, H. Hultgren, and G. Avedisian.
- III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ashley Hahn Morris, Town Planner, attended and was welcomed by Chair L. Arnold.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 27, 2012 by G. Klinger with the following correction – in IV line one change January to March. 2nd: F. Safford. Aye: L. Arnold, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
- V. OLD BUSINESS:
Reports from Commissioners
1. Affordable Housing – Ashley Hahn Morris discussed the current situation in Town relative to affordable housing and asked that the Commission provide an opinion from the perspective of conservation to the proposals put forward by the Affordable Housing Commission and the Planning Commission. She would welcome any suggestions and recommendations that we have as well as a list of items we feel should be further researched by May 23, 2012. We are also asked to nominate a member of the Commission to be on subcommittee with representatives from all of the involved commissions to work on the affordable housing issue.
 2. Arbor Day – will be observed at noon on April 27th at Grandpre Memorial Park. Many thanks to Alan Arsenault and the Public Works Dept for removing the rotted out tree and planting the replacement pin oak tree. Also thanks to C. Connery and Larlham Landscaping for getting the tree. At the ceremony, L. Arnold, G. Avedisian, J. Primiano and a representative of the Charlestown Historical Society will speak.
 3. Richards Trails – the site walk to scope out a trail scheduled for April 28 has been cancelled since the Nature Conservancy representative cannot make it and due to the tree canopy coming out early the GPS will not work properly. This project will be rescheduled for the fall. The work day scheduled for May 19th from 9:00 to noon to clear the trail has been moved to South Farm Preserve and we will cut back and slightly reorient the trail cut by the Boy Scouts last year.
 4. Maps – L. Arnold reported that S. McCandless is working on them for Richards Trails.
 5. Signage – Motion by R. Thieke to spend up to \$250 to purchase an “Open Dawn to Dusk” sign to be added to the Richards Trail sign once the trails are established. 2nd: G. Klinger. Aye: L. Arnold, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
 6. Commission Sponsored Open Space Walk at South Farm Preserve was scheduled for June 23, 2012 starting at 10:00AM. A walk of Schoolhouse Pond will be done later in the year.
 7. Geo-caching – we will place two more sites at South Farm when we are there on May 19th. Motion by R. Thieke to spend up to \$25 for additional materials for the sites. 2nd: G. Klinger. Aye: L. Arnold, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
 8. Picnic table for South Farm: Motion by F. Safford to spend up to \$250 for a picnic table for South Farm Preserve. 2nd: K. Simoneau. Aye: L. Arnold, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
 9. Owl, duck and bluebird houses – L. Arnold reported that all those purchased had been installed at South Farm and/or Schoolhouse Preserve and a listing of the locations will be kept in the barn at South Farm.
 10. Well Water Workshop, Rain barrel Project and Arbor Day posters have been placed at various locations around Town by G. Klinger. There are already some orders for the rain barrels.

11. Photo Contest – we will discuss whether to have one at our next meeting.
12. Report on Public Access Trail (Map 18, Lot 9-19) – there is an easement to CRMC for beach access and the fence installed by the property owner needs to be taken down unless he gets a proper permit for it.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Possible Planning Intern – it was suggested that if this person has the time they revamp the Conservation Commission portion of the Town website and add possible new links and photos. It would also be helpful if copies could be made of portions of the property books at Town Hall relevant to the 16 properties we have been asked by the Town Council to monitor.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. Motion by G. Klinger to adjourn. 2nd: K. Simoneau. Aye: L. Arnold, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N. Thieke
Secretary

Next regular Commission meeting will be held on May 22, 2012

There will be a special meeting of the Commission on May 19, 2012 at 9:00 AM at South Farm Preserve