

CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
May 23, 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, G. Gardiner, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Excused: F. Safford.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** G. Klinger introduced Shirley Griffin who has applied to fill the Commission vacancy.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2017 meeting was made by C. Connery. 2nd: G. Klinger. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: G. Gardiner. Motion to approve the May 10, 2017 minutes by G. Gardiner. 2nd: C. Connery. Aye: C. Connery, G. Gardiner, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: G. Klinger.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. Report on Charlestown Moraine Preserve**
- a. Trail Work Day Report – C. Connery reported that much of the new trail in the western section has been cleared of leaves and brush cut. This work will be completed as soon as weather permits. R. Thieke reported that the new trail has been blazed and the blazes on the eastern trail refreshed.
 - b. Birdhouses – R. Thieke reported that eight birdhouses have been installed – some by the parking area and the others on the south side of the Preserve.
 - c. New maps – R. Thieke has received from S. McCandless a new map with the expanded trail network and it has been placed in the kiosk. Smaller maps that can be taken by walkers have been placed at the kiosk.
- B. Report on South Farm Preserve**
- a. Picnic table near barn – will move it to the picnic area near kiosk on June 3rd work day at the preserve.
 - b. Fallen Tree – G. Gardiner reported that he has removed the fallen tree obstructing the woodland trail.
 - c. June 3 Work Day – focus will be on general clean-up and weed whacking around the parking lot and stone wall along Old Coach Road as well as pruning back vegetation along the woodland trails, especially the one done by the Boy Scouts.
 - d. Trail Cutting – G. Klinger will ask Public Works Dept. to cut the trails as soon as possible.
- C. Report on Schoolhouse Pond Preserve**
- a. Kiosk – will be installed in July 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 next meeting unless we have more volunteers show up on June 3rd than can be used effectively at South Farm and some are asked to go here instead.
- D. Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve**
- a. Parking Lot – July timeline for completion.
 - b. Trail map – R. Thieke will discuss with S. McCandless getting a trail map made for the kiosk and distribution to visitors.
 - c. 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. R. Thieke estimated that about 150 feet of fencing will be needed to close off the area. Will discuss further at June meeting.
- E. Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp** – Road sign needs repair and K. Simoneau will take care of it.

- F. **Arbor Day** – we will observe this by planting a shrub or tree at the Charlestown Moraine in September
- G. **Additional Old Business** – Dr. Tewksbury (Lisa), a Research Associate at URI working on solving the black swallowwort problem reported to G. Klinger that the project to test at South Farm has been placed on hold. She also requested and was granted permission to once again place a pine beetle trap at Richard Trails since they have found them there in past years.

VI NEW BUSINESS

- A. **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. Any Commissioners interested may attend.
- B. **Annual Trail and Maintenance Day – June 3** – decided we will use this as the work day for South Farm and possibly Schoolhouse Pond if we get a goodly number of volunteer helpers.
- C. **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. Flyers have been placed around Town and were also available for distribution by other Commission members.
- D. **Economic Improvement Commission Meeting on April 27th** – G. Klinger reported that the meeting was well attended and the main theme was how to bring more business to Charlestown during the shoulder seasons. She suggested that some of the Preserves could be used for kite flying or owl prowls. The Chamber of Commerce will be putting together a community calendar to raise awareness of what is going on.
- E. **CRMC Notice** – None
- F. **Additional New Business** – Motion by R. Thieke to recommend to the Town Council the appointment of Shirley Griffin to the Conservation Commission. 2nd: G. Klinger. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery, G. Gardner, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None

VII MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

VIII ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by C. Connery to adjourn. 2nd: G. Gardiner. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery, G. Gardiner, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard N Thieke, Secretary

Next Commission Meeting on June 27, 2017 at Town Hall at 7:00 PM

Next Special Commission Meeting on June 3, 2017 at 9:00 AM, weather permitting, at South Farm.