

**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**July 23, 2019**  
**Charlestown Town Hall**  
**4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by G. Klinger, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: G. Klinger, C. Connery, G. Gardiner, S. Griffin, L. Macalister, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** G. Klinger welcomed Deborah Carney (Town Council member).
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of June 25, 2019 meeting was made by S. Griffin. 2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Macalister. Aye: G. Klinger, G. Gardiner, S. Griffin, L. Macalister, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: C. Connery.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. **Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp Preserve** – K. Simoneau will paint the support columns for the sign
  - B. **Charlestown Moraine Preserve** – G. Klinger reported that there needs to be some weed whacking around the parking area and a cutback of vegetation around the road sign. The trails also need to be walked to determine if there have been any blowdowns due to the recent storm.
  - C. **Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve**
    - a. **Trail clearing** – G. Klinger reported that F. Topping had recently walked the trails and let her know that they are in need of weed whacking as the grass is getting too high.
    - b. **Pine trees in field** – decided to begin clearing the trees in September and dates will be finalized at our next meeting.
  - D. **Richard Trails Preserve**
    - a. G. Gardiner and C. Connery will walk the trails to clear any downed trees after recent storm.
  - E. **Schoolhouse Pond Preserve**
    - a. **Kiosk** – G. Klinger has marked where the kiosk is to be placed and Public Works will have it installed by Larlham Landscaping in the near future.
    - b. **Road sign** – The sign has been moved to its new location and the abutter (Mr. Gallo) claimed it was on his property. After phone discussion with G. Klinger and a personal visit by D. Carney, he was told by both that the sign is indeed on Town property but it was regretted that some plants were cut and a pine tree branch severed in the installation process. Bottom line, he is not happy with the more visible sign making more people aware of the Preserve since the access road is right in front of his property.
  - F. **South Farm Preserve**
    - a. **Mowing the trails** – G. Klinger reported that Public Works had mowed the trails.
    - b. **Weed whacking** – G. Gardiner reported that he had weed whacked around the parking area and that the sight lines coming out of the parking were expanded. He also recommended that Public Works be asked to cut the weeds along the entire stone wall facing the road.
  - G. **Additional Old Business** -
    - a. **Well Water Workshop** – S. Griffin reported that 48 people attended and that 22 testing kits were taken.

**VI NEW BUSINESS**

**A. CRMC Notices –**

- a.** Application has been made by Jennifer Scappatura to add 4.4 acres to her existing oyster farm on Quonnie Pond.

**B. Additional New Business**

- a. Town Budget –** D. Carney encouraged all to vote for the revised Town budget on Monday and also suggested that we consider over the next few months if there are any substantial projects to be done on the preserves so that we can propose them to the Budget Commission when they start working on the budget for the next fiscal year in December.

**VII MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. Beach Access –** L. Macalister recommended that the question of public access to the Town Beach be reviewed since after our annual monitoring of Town-owned beachfront properties along Charlestown Beach Road it became apparent that property lines have become obscured and/or accesses blocked off. D. Carney will send our monitoring report to the other members of the Town Council and ask that the issue be put on the Council agenda for discussion.

**VIII ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by G. Gardiner to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup>: L. Macalister. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery, G. Gardiner, S. Griffin, L. Macalister, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N. Thieke, Secretary

Next regular Commission Meeting on August 27, 2019 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall.