

**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**August 26, 2014**  
**Charlestown Town Hall**  
**4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren, G. Klinger, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke.  
Excused: F. Safford
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ron Russo of the Economic Improvement Commission attended.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
Motion to amend the minutes of July 22, 2014 by deleting the words “parking lot” from line 3 of section V-A-c and then approving the minutes of July 24, 2014 H. Hultgren. 2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Connery. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, H. Hultgren and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: G. Klinger and K. Simoneau.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. Report on Charlestown Moraine Preserve**
- a. L. Arnold reported that Tim Mooney of The Nature Conservancy has e-mailed her the map showing the proposed trail (4820 feet long) for the eastern section of the Moraine Preserve.
  - b. C. Connery will obtain an estimate of the cost to clear the proposed trail to a width of 40 to 48 inches so that the trail grant application can be completed.
  - c. There was general discussion of the information still needed to complete the application for a RI DEM Trail grant. Besides needing the maps (which we now have), we need to determine estimated cost of the trail clearing as well as signage and other informational materials. R. Thieke will collect estimated costs for the signage, kiosk, etc. and it is anticipated that we will have this information so that the application can be finalized for the November grant cycle.
- B. South Farm Preserve**
- a. Maintenance – C. Connery indicated that he would do the needed weed-whacking around the barn stone walls as well as the sauna and the old kitchen garden.
  - b. L. Arnold will ask the Public Works Dept. if they would be able to cut the trails on the north and south fields every few weeks since R. Thieke is no longer able to do it.
  - c. Picnic table – F. Safford has painted the new picnic table and it has been placed in the picnic area.
  - d. Fields mowing – L. Arnold reported receipt of an e-mail concerning why the fields were mowed since birds were nesting. She responded that due to the size of the fields only bobolinks nest there and they have had their young and they have fledged and that the management plan for the Preserve requires the fields to be cut annually around August 1
- C. Richard Trails**
- a. C. Connery will schedule a time to complete the clearing of the new trail and then R. Thieke will complete the blazing of it. Tim Mooney of The Nature Conservancy will be furnishing us with a new map showing the trail.
- D. Schoolhouse Pond Preserve**
- a. The sign and kiosk are being worked on and finalized soon.
- E. Monitoring Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp** – L. Arnold and G. Klinger will do this work in the near future.

F. **Report – Affordable Housing Commission** – R Russo said that now that the Church Woods project was on again due to receipt of Superstorm Sandy funds, there was some concern by the Church of the Holy Spirit that the public well at the Church will be used also by the units at Church Woods. Main concerns evolve around who will own the well, be responsible for its maintenance, pay for the electricity and whether it has sufficient capacity to supply everyone. Commission members advised him that our only involvement with the project was from a conservation perspective and he should take up the issue with the Affordable Housing Commission itself.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **CRMC Public Notice** – we have been advised that they have received an application from Walrus and Carpenter Oysters LLC to expand their operation in Ninigret Pond by another three acres and that they request permission to place a 20 x 40 foot floating platform there between April and November to facilitate all of the maintenance tasks associated with the growing and harvesting of the oysters. We saw no reason to object.
- B. **E-Mail from Tim O’Neill regarding Phragmites “taking over” Garden Pond** – his e-mail was discussed and research has indicated that they are difficult to get rid of and it would be costly to do in both money and manpower. L. Arnold was directed to respond to Mr. O’Neill and refer him to the Coastal Ponds Commission for any further action.

**VII. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N. Thieke  
Secretary

Next regular meeting of the Commission at Town Hall will be on September 23, 2014 at 7:00 PM.