

**CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**March 25, 2014**  
**Charlestown Town Hall**  
**4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813**

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by L. Arnold, Chair.
- II. ROLL CALL: Present: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke.  
Excused: H. Hultgren
- III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS: None
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
Motion to correct the minutes of February 25, 2014 to change the word “clearing” to “cleaning” in section V - G and then to approve the amended minutes of February 25, 2014 by G. Klinger. 2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Simoneau.  
Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
- V. OLD BUSINESS
- A. Report of Town Council meeting on March 10, 2014 – R. Thieke reported that the Council received the Charlestown Moraine Preserve Management Plan as well as the recommendation of the Commission regarding easement holders. He restated the reasons for our conclusions and the Council then voted to approve the Management Plan and to not select an easement holder. R. Thieke was asked by the Council to send them and the Town Clerk, Administrator and Solicitor a copy of the Charlestown Moraine Management Plan with all references to an easement holder removed. That has been done. The Council also approved our contacting The Nature Conservancy to take up their offer to help design and layout the trails and parking area at the Charlestown Moraine Preserve free of charge. The Town Council also approved our recommendation that the Town submit to RI DEM an application for a RI Trail Improvement and Trail Equipment Grant to construct trails, a parking area and signage on the Charlestown Moraine Preserve.
  - B. Monitoring 16 Town Owned Properties – scheduled this work for April 26 starting at 9:00 AM with April 27 at 2:00 PM being the rain date. We will meet at the Ninigret Park tennis courts to carpool.
  - C. Richard Trails – scheduled to monitor the property and also to blaze and clear a new trail on April 16 starting at 9:00 AM
  - D. Assessing winter and storm damage to South Farm, Schoolhouse Pond and Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp – R Thieke indicated that he would walk the trails at South Farm. L. Arnold will check on the Cedar Swamp and we will schedule a date for Schoolhouse Pond at our next meeting.
  - E. Conservation Commission budget – L. Arnold reported that we have been allocated \$2,000 for the next fiscal year.
  - F. Land & Water Summit – March 8, 2014 at URI – K. Simoneau reported on the session he attended. R Thieke reported on the two he attended regarding trails and that he had purchased a book on trails since he felt it would be helpful to us in the laying out of the Moraine trails. Motion by R. Thieke to approve spending \$36 plus shipping for a copy of “Natural Surface Trails by Design.” 2<sup>nd</sup>: F. Safford. Approve: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.
  - G. R I Association of Conservation Commission Meeting – March 8, 2014 – R. Thieke reported that the Association has now created a website that contains information on every one of the commissions in the state and that we, therefore, needed to be sure that the information on our site was up-to-date. He also indicated that the R I Land Trust Council had created a site called “Explore RI” which is a place that lists all of the walking and water trails in the state and provides maps and information about the sites and trails. At this point the only walking trail listed for Charlestown is Kimball Bird Sanctuary run by Audubon. Salt Ponds Coalition has listed water trails in Ninigret and Quonnie Ponds.

- H. Well Water Workshop – June 24, 2014 at 6:00 PM at Chariho Middle School – G. Klinger reported that this has been arranged and the session will be three hours long and held in the cafeteria.
- I. Affordable Housing Commission Liaison Report – None
- J. Arbor Day celebration – L. Arnold reported that it is set for May 2 at the Charlestown Elementary School. Program will be for 4<sup>th</sup> graders and we will again distribute blue spruce seedlings to each student. C. Connery reported that the seedlings have been ordered and should be delivered on April 30 and we will meet at 4:00 PM to separate and bag them. L. Arnold said the art and science teachers will get together and select a theme and have the children do posters and we will give the best three a certificate of appreciation.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Open Space Brochure – L. Arnold reported that the supply is almost all gone. L. Arnold will update it to include some information about the new Moraine Preserve (size, significant features and that there are currently no parking areas or trails. ) Motion by R. Thieke to spend up to \$250 for the purchase of updated open space brochures. 2<sup>nd</sup>: F. Safford. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke. Nay: None.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by G. Klinger to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Connery. Aye: L. Arnold, C. Connery, G. Klinger, F. Safford, K. Simoneau and R. Thieke.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard N. Thieke  
Secretary

Next regular meeting of the Commission at Town Hall will be on April 22, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Special Meetings of the Commission will be held:

April 16, 2014 at 9:00 AM at Richard Trails

April 26, 2014 at 9:00 AM starting at the Ninigret Park Tennis Court parking area.