

## **Shapleigh Conservation Commission**

**March 28, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Committee Chair, Chuck Desmond, called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

**Attending:** Chuck Desmond, Susan Baker, Madge Baker, Carol Boothby, and David Mann.

**Wildlife Sightings:** Turkeys, deer with their dark coats, fox, pileated woodpecker, Canada geese and ticks.

**Secretary's Report:**

**Correspondence:**

**Newspaper/Publication Items of Interest:**

**Treasurer's Report:** \$300.00

**Town Forest Trail:** Susan reported that the trail "could use some TLC, but really wasn't too bad after the winter". Trail cleanup is scheduled for Sunday, April 24, 2022. We'll meet at Chuck's house at 10 am and go from there. Bring loopers, bowsaws and rakes.

**Planning Board:** Madge said there was nothing to report except that Board is anticipating an uptick in applications for solar installations. Solar farms may result in some erosion from rain because large areas must be cleared of most vegetation.

**Three Rivers Land Trust:** This year the Land Trust will not host a Farm Walk breakfast on Open Farm Day in July but will instead sponsor an Art Auction.

Madge reported on two issues concerning Goose Pond Overlook. Three Rivers Land Trust holds an easement on this property owned by the Town. Three boulders originally placed to prevent ATV access to the property need to be moved as the "work around" used by ATV users goes up a relatively steep incline resulting in significant erosion potential. Moving the boulders is a tacit acknowledgment that the ATVs are not going away and that the boulders are creating another problem. Secondly, one area of the trail that goes down a steep hill needs more mulch to help prevent erosion. Last year, Chuck asked the ASYCC to spread more mulch on the hill, but the Core did not want to take on the project even though they had done this in the past. Chuck will speak to the coordinator of the ASYCC again to see if they will work on mulching this one portion of the ATV trail. Madge suggested that Chuck and David should meet with the selectmen and explain the issue surrounding moving the stones currently blocking the ATV trail.

**Williams Property:** Carol and David reported that the cuts last fall to improve vista management were very successful. Northern and Westerly viewing areas are spectacular.

**Old Business:** The contest to generate interest about climate change is on ice. The committee will take this up again next year once the pandemic is over.

Chuck will contact "Project Wild" to setup a workshop in Shapleigh to train volunteers in environmental education. We need a minimum of ten participants for them to come here and this seems possible. The goal of Project Wild is to develop awareness, knowledge, skills and commitment to wildlife and the environment in K-12 students.

**New Business:** The committee discussed sponsoring roadside cleanup on Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 2022.

The next meeting will be April 18, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by David Mann