

SHAPLEIGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

October 19, 2020

Attending: Chuck Desmond, Susan Baker, Carol Boothby, and David Mann (all wearing masks)

Meeting called to order at 7:11 by Committee Chair Chuck Desmond.

Wildlife sightings: Turkeys, deer (already with a dark coat) and Canadian geese.

Secretary's Report: Secretary's report for September 14, 2020 were approved as written.

Correspondence: Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry warned Maine residents to be on the outlook for Invasive Stiltgrass (aka Japanese Stiltgrass) which was found in a nursery in York County. Stiltgrass is an annual which grows in sun or shade and forms a thick matt making it difficult for native plants to grow. Typical of invasive species, each stem produces hundreds to thousands of seeds in September and October that are viable for up to 5 years. It is best to pull the plant which has a weak root system in the late summer before it goes to seed.

Another invasive species is the spotted latternfly which feeds on tree sap thus damaging the tree. The insect secretes a sugary substance which supports the growth of black mold. Latternfly egg masses have been found on trees in towns along the coast.

Newspaper/Publication items of interest:

Treasurer's report: Committee's coffers contain \$115.00.

Trail: A trail-maintenance group (Chuck Desmond, Carol Boothby, Shirley Sheesley and David Mann) met on Wednesday morning, September 23, 2020 and worked on the trail from the Town Beach north to Town Farm Road. Most of the work involved cutting tree sprouts from recently harvested trees that were obstructing the path.

The bridge over the ditch by Town Farm Road will be moved back to minimize chance of plow damage this winter.

Town Forest: Chuck will try to connect with the ASYCC this winter in hopes of getting the group to assume some trail maintenance in the Town Forest in 2021.

Planning Board:

Appeals Board: Nothing to report

Three Rivers Land Trust: Keith Davis, Chuck and the Laviolette's (new owners of Charlie Grubber's house) monitored the Grubber Forest. Three Rivers Land Trust will be building a five-space parking lot for use by visitors to the Forest.

Williams Property: Carol reported that the Williams Property looks fine.

New Business: Susan suggested contacting the Principle of Shapleigh Memorial School (Melissa Penney) about doing a nature walk for students. David will put Susan in contact with Cheri Brunault, Executive Director of Three Rivers Land Trust, as Cheri has made a map of the Nature Trail in the Town Forest and Susan would like to set up geocaching stations for kids to use and needs GPS coordinates.

The next meeting will be November 9, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectively submitted by David Mann