

Shapleigh Conservation Commission

December 12, 2023

Call to Order: Committee Chair, Chuck Desmond, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Attending: Chuck Desmond, Carol Boothby, Steve Hinds, Susan Baker, and David Mann.

Secretary's Report: The minutes for November 14, 2023 meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence:

Treasurer's Report: \$119.69 Chuck will purchase paint for trail blazing and trash bags for Earth Day Roadside Cleanup.

Town Forest, Nature Trail, Shapleigh Town Beach: The November 26th trail cleanup went well. Three crews walked from the town beach to Route 11. Some of the trail blazes need to be freshened up next spring. The Town Forestry Committee identified some invasives near the town beach. Forestry will ask the 4H Club if they will take this project on. If the 4H is not able to do it, the Conservation Commission will work on it.

Planning Board:

Williams Property: David and Carol reported that the trail at Williams Park looks great.

Three Rivers Land Trust: Steve spoke about the situation at Goose Pond Turtle Preserve. The Wards erected a fence at the Hodgdon Road end of the access trail as they thought they owned the trail. The land was surveyed and the town's ownership established, so the Wards removed the fence blocking access to the trail. Steve would like to have Three rivers Land Trust or the town buy one parcel of land at the Totte Road end of the trail which would assure public access to Goose Pond Turtle Preserve and making it easier to prevent ATV access to the trail. Carol reported that the bridge at the Turtle Preserve is on its side.

Old Business:

New Business: Chuck welcomed Steve Hinds as our newest committee member.

Community Day. This year the committee will provide an area for the construction of Fairy Houses using natural materials. Susan suggested that we might consider a different location for our booth.

Earth Day. Committee will sponsor a Roadside Cleanup for Earth Day encouraging participants to do their neighborhood roads. Chuck will buy more trash bags.

Campaign for Increasing Climate Change Awareness. One suggestion is to have grade-school students' interview (survey) grandparents and parents about the past climate relative to the present situation. Surveys should include pictures and other "appropriate data" to help document any change.

Steve suggested that in the future the committee should evaluate and critique our projects with regards to their success and/or failure.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by David Mann, Secretary