

Shapleigh Conservation Commission

January 9, 2024

Call to Order: Committee Chair, Chuck Desmond, called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm.

Attending: Chuck Desmond, Steve Hinds, Susan Baker, and David Mann (latter via phone).

Secretary's Report: Approval of the minutes for December 12, 2023 meeting was postponed until we have a quorum.

Correspondence:

Treasurer's Report: \$90.23. Chuck purchased paint for trail blazing, \$29.46. Unused funds will be returned to the town.

Town Forest, Nature Trail, Shapleigh Town Beach: No word on whether the 4H Club will adopt the project of removing the invasive plants near the town beach. If the 4H is not able to do it, the Conservation Commission may take up the project.

Susan reported that the Nature Trail has several large trees blocking the path because of the storm just before Christmas. Removal will require a chainsaw.

Town forest timber harvest started today. Work is being done by Bob Carr of Limerick.

Planning Board: Meghan Laviolet (old Gruber place, Emery Mills) has applied for a building permit to construct another building on their property by the Gruber Woods Preserve. The new owners of Gretchen and Ed Woods old place on the Ross Corner Road have applied for a permit to have an event center at the property.

Williams Property: Elizabeth (via Chuck) reported that the trail at Williams Park looks great. A post on Facebook stated that someone was baiting animals at the Williams Town Park.

Three Rivers Land Trust: The land trust is debating whether to use herbicides to control invasives at the Sanford community Forest.

Steve met with Madge Baker and Carl Davis at the Goose Pond Preserve. Steve proposed having the land trust buy one parcel of land at the Totte Road end of the trail which would assure public access to Goose Pond Turtle Preserve and make it easier to prevent ATV access to the trail. Carl agreed to bring the project up at the next board meeting. Carl and Madge suggested a more feasible alternative would be to secure a deeded right-of-way to the south end of the trail from the current owner of the property.

Old Business:

New Business: David suggested creating a brochure to distribute at Community Day describing the hiking trails in Shapleigh.

Steve is participating in a program beta testing several new features associated with the app, All-Trails. The new features will allow Steve to add trails not currently on the All-Trails data base. Steve would then get data on how many people down loaded the trail information and any feedback users might post concerning the trails and the trails' description.

Susan will follow up with Dave at LinePro about the map for the Nature Trail in the town forest.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by David Mann, Secretary