

Shapleigh Conservation Commission

December 12, 2022

Call to Order: Committee Chair, Chuck Desmond, called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm.

Attending: Chuck Desmond, Susie Marcoux, Elizabeth Savincki, Susan Baker, and David Mann (David attended via phone. The Town's guest WiFi was not strong enough for him to connect via Google Meets.)

Wildlife Sightings: Multiple opossums, cardinals, and turkeys.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the November 14, 2022, meeting were read by David and approved by the committee. Members will receive a hard copy at our next meeting.

Correspondence:

Newspaper/Publication Items of Interest:

Treasurer's Report: \$300.00

Trail: Chuck and David followed up the November trail maintenance by removing the two dead trees that had fallen across the trail between the Boston Cemetery spur and the Great Hollow Road.

Planning Board: Madge reported, via Chuck, that the planning board was working on housekeeping changes to the zoning ordinances. The proposed changes will be up for approval at the 2023 town meeting.

Appeals Board: No activity

Three Rivers Land Trust: Land trust will be meeting this Wednesday, December 14th.

Williams Property: Elizabeth reported that the Williams property is in good shape.

Old Business: Chuck spoke to Joe Stanley. He has a special GPS system, mounted in a backpack, and is about ready to start drawing up the map of the Town Forest Nature Trail. Joe asked the committee what special features they would like to have included on the map. The suggestions included: town beach, Town Farm Homestead (house and barn cellar holes), stone bridge, Boston cemetery, and a couple of cemeteries with interred veterans along the Great Hollow Road. Our map will have two QR codes, one would be for the map itself and one for the conservation commission's web page.

Chuck distributed maps of Sawyer Mountain Trail in Limerick and Limington owned by the Francis Small Heritage Trust. The committee liked many of the features on the map including the contours. Chuck will forward the map to Joe.

Suzie looked up Mark McCartney's street address so the secretary could send him a thank you card.

New Business: The committee discussed the draft mission statement drawn up by Susan Baker.

The Shapleigh Conservation Commission is dedicated to the protection of the Town of Shapleigh's rural character, water resources, wildlife habitat, and sustainable forestry, while encouraging responsible use of our town parks, trails, and open spaces. We advocate for land conservation efforts, provide public education, and promote community responsibility for its preservation.

The committee approved the draft as written.

The next meeting will be January 9, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall. David will attend via Google Meets assuming we can tap into the town's WiFi system.

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by David Mann