

Shapleigh Conservation Commission

March 21, 2023

Call to Order: Committee Chair, Chuck Desmond, called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

Attending: Chuck Desmond, Madge Baker, Susie Marcoux, Susan Baker, Carol Boothby, and David Mann (Weak phone connections prevented committee from reaching Elizabeth).

Wildlife Sightings:

Secretary's Report: Secretary's report for the February 13th meeting will be circulated via email later this evening.

Correspondence: Madge forwarded an email from the Natural Resources Council of Maine to Chuck. The NRCM was promoting the Community Resilience Partnership which is funding community projects which implement energy efficiency, clean energy, and climate resilience projects. Madge suggested two possible projects; purchase of an EV for the CEO rather than a conventional gas powered vehicle or installing more solar panels to meet the increased energy needs of our recently approved new municipal building.

Newspaper/Publication Items of Interest:

Treasurer's Report: The \$300.00 line item for the Conservation Commission was approved at the most recent town meeting (covering the 2023 fiscal year).

Trail: Once the snow is gone there will be a lot of work needed to clean up the Town Forest trail.

Planning Board: Madge reported that the town nearly issued all its growth permits. A new state law allows for the construction of accessory dwellings (190 to 700 square feet) on any conforming lot in the state. The idea being that the new law would help address the state's housing shortage. A measure will appear on the July ballot to approve including this new law to the town's zoning ordinance. This change will help increase awareness of the new rules for Shapleigh residents.

Appeals Board: No activity

Three Rivers Land Trust: The land trust has voted not to sponsor a breakfast on Open Farm Day in July. The land trust is planning on having kayaks at Hansen Pond for the use of the public.

Williams Property: No report

Old Business: Chuck plans on contacting Joe Stanley to see how he's coming on creating the trail map for the town forest.

Elizabeth was unable to find someone to speak on PFAS chemicals and well water. State is unwilling to send anyone out at this time. The committee discussed expanding the program to address drinking water in general and to include other hazards in drinking water such as arsenic, lead, radon as well as PFAS chemicals.

Chuck and Susan purchased the supplies for the Roadside cleanup on Earth Day; ice cream sandwiches, posterboard, trash bags, etc..

Susan will post information about the Roadside Cleanup on Facebook's, "What's Shaking in Shapleigh". The cleanup will be from 9 to 12 noon on Saturday April 22, 2023. Participants can meet at the Commons on noon for ice cream treats and to share their experiences.

Several options were discussed about having kids make posters for the Earth Day Cleanup; Sandra Marie Anderson (Rec Committee) and Marissa Penney (Shapleigh Memorial School). Posters advertising the Cleanup will be posted at Teds, The Soup Shack, Local 130, One Earth, Brew Shop, Four Seasons Barbershop, The Quilt shop, Knox's Auto, Black Bear Auto, Lakeside Reality, Reality 2000, library, Town Hall, Post Office, Boonies, Willis Market, etc.

New Business: David will contact EcoMaine about setting up a booth for Community Day, July 22.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 11 at 6:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by David Mann, Secretary