

## **Shapleigh Conservation Committee**

**March 8, 2021**

**Attending:** Chuck Desmond, Susan Baker, Carol Boothby, Madge Baker and David Mann. All committee members were masked.

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm by Committee Chair, Chuck Desmond.

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary's report for February 22, 2021 was approved after it was amended to include that the "Shapleigh Marina is one of the identified sources of runoff into Square Pond".

**Wildlife sightings:** Porcupine, bobcat and woodpeckers.

**Correspondence:**

**Newspaper/Publication items of interest:**

**Treasurer's report:** \$115.00

**Trail:** Susan reported that the Town Farm Trail is fine.

**Town Forest:** Chuck spoke to Joe Stanley who said the Forestry Committee is working on a Management Plan for the Town Forest. Forestry Committee has not met over the past year.

**Planning Board:** Planning board has approved several applications for enlarging and upgrading existing camps on the lakes. Permits approved for one or two new houses on Stone Post Road.

**Appeals Board:** Nothing to report

**Three Rivers Land Trust:** Nothing new in the past two weeks.

**Williams Property:** Susan reported that the Williams Property looks good.

**New Business:** Madge presented some ideas for how the Conservation Committee could promote community awareness and education concerning climate change. The following are the highlights of her suggestions and subsequent discussion.

Young people are our natural allies in this area and are often undaunted as to what can be accomplished.

Committee could sponsor tree planting (young people would do the planting) to increase carbon sequestration.

Committee could look to the Maine Climate Action Network and the Maine Environmental Education Association for projects and ideas as to what we might do.

Susan suggested we sponsor an essay competition for school age kids in Shapleigh. Susan also suggested having students create posters on climate issues e.g., solar panels or carbon sequestration. Posters could be displayed at Community Day, Town Hall, Library, the Town of Shapleigh's website, etc. Susan will contact Marisa Penney, RSU 57 Assistant Principal, to determine what Shapleigh Memorial School is currently doing in this area and to see if we could help promote a unit on climate change, etc.

At the level of local government, some of the ideas the committee might consider adopting include:

1. Press Town Forestry Committee to incorporate plans for carbon sequestration into the Town Forest Management Plan.
2. Look into allowing individuals who would like solar panels but because of space limitations (camps on the lake) do not have the room for them on their property could instead have solar panels at the town's solar installation.
3. Maintain a page on Town's website about climate related issues affecting Shapleigh specifically.

At the level of Maine State government, the Committee could help with lobbying efforts to get state officials to adopt pro climate change legislation:

1. Formation of a state-owned utility company with the aim of increasing distribution capacity from renewable sources such as solar and wind installations.
2. Promote adoption of the "Pine Tree Amendment" to the state constitution.
3. Promote legislation to improve water quality in Maine's rivers and lakes.

Madge is personally reviewing the Town's zoning ordinances to determine if they interfere with solar panel installation.

Madge gave the committee an article on climate change from the summer 2020 issue of Saving Land, a publication of the Land Trust Alliance Organization. Chuck will make copies for the committee.

The next meeting will be April 12, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Minutes respectively submitted by David Mann