

Shapleigh Conservation Committee
Minutes 9/19/2023

Call to order: Committee Chair, Anna Desmond, called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

Attending: Susan Baker, Susie Marcoux, Carol Boothby, and Anna Desmond

Guests: Madge Baker and Ann Ward

Secretary's Report: The minutes for June 20, 2023, were approved as written.

Correspondence: Susie found information that Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge was looking for volunteers to help build habitat for endangered New England cottontail rabbits on Sept. 23, 2023. Fee-Free National Park Day passes would be provided to all volunteers.

Treasurer's Report: There is approximately \$119.69 remaining in our 2023 budget. An email was sent to our town administrator to verify the exact amount.

Town Forest, Nature Trail, Shapleigh Town Beach: No maintenance has been done on our Nature Trail so far this year. The Forestry Committee and The Acton Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corp. have completed the maintenance at the Town Beach for 2023. More work is planned in 2024.

Planning Board:

Williams Property:

3 Rivers Land Trust: Kite Day at Romac Orchards was postponed due to poor weather.

Old Business: Shapleigh Community Day was a great success. Our scavenger hunt was popular with many attendants. We are thinking of offering a fairy house building event for next year using recycled materials.

New Business: The Conservation Trail maintenance is scheduled for Oct. 22, 2023.

Ann Ward is a Shapleigh resident who lives on Hodgdon Rd. She came to our meeting to discuss the ATV traffic on Hodgdon Rd. and on the Goose Pond Overlook Blandings Turtle Preserve. Her husband has put a berm of sand in front of the access to the trail that leads to the Preserve and has parked an excavator in front of the berm. This has made it very difficult to access the trail. Our position and the Ward's position is that ATV traffic is not allowed on either Hodgdon Rd. or the Preserve. The town is working to remedy this issue. We may have ASYCC put up posts to prevent ATV traffic from damaging fragile areas of the trail.

Adjournment: 7:03

Minutes respectively submitted by Anna Desmond, Chair