

CHICHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting MINUTES
January 9, 2023

1. *Call to order*: 6:34PM, Our newly appointed member, Jeff Mayne, was welcomed by members.
2. *Review/approval of minutes of previous meetings* – Zack asked for clarification of what was discussed at last month's meeting with, Kevin Gagnes, representative of the local Snow Dawgs snow mobile club (Zack was not at the last meeting). The minutes of the 12/12/11 meeting were approved.
3. *Mail review* – a lawyer bill for VVCA has been passed on to the town for payment.
4. *Goals and Projects*
 - *Public Outreach* – nothing shared
 - *Land conservation* – nothing shared
 - *Shirley Waters C. A.* - Bob reported a few large trees are down on the trail and that he cleared some of the debris so people could get over the trees. Zack volunteered to cut up the trees on the spur trail. Bob found flagging for a new trail that had been partially cleared and followed it to where it went into a neighboring property. The flagging should come down as no new trail was authorized by either the CCC or the Parks and Rec. Commission. Zack noted that the current trail lay out was planned to keep people away from the bottom of the hill where there are multiple animal dens. This is recommended to not stress local wildlife by people getting too close to their dens.
 - *Valley View C. A.* - A title search of the deed was done before the upcoming closing on the easement. An issue showed up and the owner cannot show a clear title to the property. The owner is working on this with an attorney and the adjacent land owner. Nothing further can be done until the title issue is resolved. The Governor and Council did approve the 64K grant for source water protection through the Department of Environmental Services for the VVCA.
 - *Madeline Sanborn C. A.* - Bob reported that the plexi-glass in the kiosk at Shaw Pasture has been destroyed and all the informational signs in the kiosk are gone. He has purchased a replacement piece of plexi-glass. A **motion** was made and **approved** to reimburse Bob \$60 for the plexi-glass. Some trail work needed as reported below by Blaze.
 - *Easement stewardship* – Blaze completed the easement walks for 2022 and turned in the paperwork to the state. He reported that there is trail work needed on the portion of the Madeline Sanborn C.A. behind the town hall. Bob reported that, despite the recent storms, there are no trees down on the trails from the Shaw Pasture to Marsh Pond.
 - *Conservation fund* – Blaze spoke with the town treasurer, Andrea, about the conservation fund accounting. She is trying to sort out the Shirley Waters donated money from the other money in the fund. He will speak with her again about putting a portion of the conservation fund into a bank CD. Current CCC funds are 336K, 178K is committed for the VVCA. About 150K may be available to invest in a CD. Blaze will gather more information and the details will be decided upon at our February meeting.
 - *Carpenter Park* – Zack reported that there are trees and branches down at the park but they did not fall on the road or trails so do not need immediate clean up. Blaze reported that he had put up the Bean Hole Bean sign on the side of the pavilion.
 - *Chichester Central School Frangione Land* – Zack reported that the Recreational Trails Program grant expired on December 31, 2022. Zack is working on documentation to submit to the grantors about the work done and the hours put in by volunteers. The grantor would like notification of any public trail opening as they would like to attend. It was agreed that a date

chosen for when the trail is drier, perhaps the late spring, might be a good time for such an event. Zack plans to attend a school board meeting to let them know the planned work has been finished. He also reported that, although Sanders Brook rose to the height of the abutments on the new bridge, no damage was done to the new trail work and structures by the recent storm and flooding. After the storm the wet areas of the trail were more apparent and showed where more trail work could be done. There are more boards and gravel on site to do much of the work. The land owner has given permission to spread the gravel. A kiosk has been built by Mark Thomas and is in place near the parking lot..

5. *Meeting adjourned at: 7:32PM*

Approved: 