

Lyme Common Committee

July 22, 2019

7 pm

Present: Barbara Balch, Russell Barnes, Judy Brotman, Tim Cook, Lisa Hayes, Vicki Smith,
Earl Strout, Laurie Wadsworth, Michelle Whitcomb

Absent: Katie Kalata Rusch

Public: Faith Catlin

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

A couple of small changes were noted for the minutes from 6/3/19. Michelle moved to accept and Tim seconded. Minutes were approved.

It was noted that subcommittee meetings need to be warned and notes passed along to Patty C.

Public Comments:

It was suggested that electrical outlets be added to the Common.

It would also be wonderful to bury the power lines.

Selectboard Meeting 7/11/19:

Michelle, Laurie and Russell attended the board meeting. They reported an overview of what we have been doing – started with uses, four subcommittees made into two. They talked about things like the crosswalk – with or without lights, parking on the east end, most of the south side, Little Common usage, and the pullout across from the Country Store among other things.

The police chief voiced concern about trees over a roadway, specifically Route 10, where there could be lighting issues as well as safety concerns from falling branches.

Ownership of the back side of the Common was not discussed but the selectboard would want to see that as part of a proposal if that is the direction the Committee was recommending.

It was asked if the current Common policy covers what the selectboard needs but that conversation hasn't happened.

The selectboard did extend its thanks to the committee for its work thus far.

Selectboard asked the committee to come up with a plan for burying v. not burying the power lines. It was suggested that private funding be solicited for burying the power lines. The selectboard is not asking the committee to fundraise but rather to come up with ideas on how it might be done.

It was noted that whoever has wires on the poles also needs to be consulted about burying lines and this will also impact price. We also need to find out the timing of the Lyme Fiber project.

Burying power lines on the north side of the Common was original conversation. As of right now, we hadn't talked about the south side.

Could we ask 250th group how far they got in research to bury the lines?

It was suggested that we might want to ask the Lyme Foundation for a grant in which we could hire an electrical person to help us with the design. It was agreed that this would be a good next step and Vicki will draft a one page proposal to be reviewed by the committee at our next meeting.

It was agreed that both groups should look at the following items in their plans:

- Trees
- Crosswalk (lights?)
- Structures
- Signs
- Parking
- Temporary uses
 - Christmas Tree Festival
 - Skating rink
- Costs

The committee divided into two new subcommittees.

Bury

Tim
Russell
Vicki
Earl
?Katie

Not Bury

Barbara
Laurie
Lisa
Michelle

Our charge is to meet and come up with a plan which would include a physical drawing/sketch of what it would look like.

If funding is needed, it would have to go to Town Meeting. It was also noted that it might be a good idea to get the Common on the agenda for the next Town Meeting as there might be additional funding needed.

Next Steps:

The committee will meet on August 5th to review the grant proposal.

Subcommittees can try to meet before that time but will need to meet in August.

We will skip a meeting on Labor Day but will meet in September on September 23rd.

Michelle moved to adjourn the meeting. Judy seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Next meeting is August 5th at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Hayes