



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 6 at 5:00 p.m.
UberConference Call**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Tom Colgan, Rebecca Hanissian (Alternate), Russell Hirschler (Alternate), David Lysy (Alternate), Meg Sheehan and Matt Stevens,

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. He named Russell, Rebecca and David as full voting members for the meeting.

Before commencing the business portion of the meeting, Blake presented the document “**A Checklist to Ensure Meetings Are Compliant with The Right-to-Know Law During the State of Emergency.**” (copy attached). Blake explained that because the Lyme Center Academy Building is closed to the public, certain requirements for public meeting access must be met to be in compliance with Governor Sununu’s Executive Order allowing for town boards and committees to meet online.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2020-05-04

- On a motion by Tom, seconded by Russell, the May meeting minutes were confirmed unanimously with Tom, Rebecca, Russell, David, Meg and Matt voting in the affirmative.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **No Items Submitted**

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Appropriation from the Conservation Fund to Pay for Trail Improvements** – Blake said the withdrawal was necessary to pay the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) for trail work to be done in several Town properties. The first will involve the Town Forest and Big Rock Preserve. This was discussed and approved at the Commission’s May meeting (see 2020-05-04 CC Minutes). The second involves refurbishing the Trout Brook. Footbridge which was put back into place in late June. This work will involve replacing all the bridge’s decking as well as that of the approaches. Russ, wearing his UVTA hat, estimated the cost of labor and wood will run between \$2000 and \$2500. After some discussion, Tom moved, and David seconded, that up to \$4000 be appropriated from the Conservation Fund to pay for all the projects. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call voted with Meg, Tom, Matt, David and Rebecca voting in the affirmative. Russ abstained.
- **LBWG Japanese Knotweed Eradication Update** – Meg gave an update on the LBGW’s progress to date. She reported that two, paid interns were out cutting in previously worked patches, and that an extensive new cluster of knotweed had been identified and targeted for future work. A discussion ensued about how best to recruit volunteers and what steps could be taken to ensure their safety. Russ said he had received a video from UNH Extension presenting ways to train outdoor volunteers for working safely during the Covid-19 pandemic. He said he



would share it with Commission members. After discussion, it was agreed to move slowly on volunteer recruitment until recent information about the virus's possible airborne transmission is better understood.

- **LBWG Big Rock Signage Proposal – Meg** presented a proposal to modify the signage at the Big Rock's NH Route 10 entrance. This would include adding a map and flyer box containing info about the LBWG's ongoing knotweed removal project. It was agreed placement of the new box and a trails map should wait until the UVTA trailhead location was completed.

4. Project and Application Review

- **327 River Road Septic and Addition –** The Commission reviewed a septic upgrade and barn renovation project proposed for 327 River Road. All the work would take place within the Connecticut River's shoreline protection district. It was noted that the site has been long inhabited and that the proposed work would not be disrupting environmentally sensitive habitat. Further, it is a long-held position of the Conservation Commission that a septic upgrade in environmentally sensitive habitat is a net gain that outweighs any temporary disruption at the site. There was agreement the project could go ahead as proposed with the additional condition that it follow DES "best practice" guidelines. Blake said he would convey the Commission's approval to the ZBA.

5. Outreach and Education

- **No Items Submitted**

6. Other Business

- **No Items Submitted**

7. Publicity

- Blake will supply an article for the July/August Lyme Community and Church News

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Tom, seconded by Matt, the meeting was adjourned ending the teleconference call at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary".

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

If matters of business warrant it, the next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will take place via remote teleconference on Monday, August 3, 2020 beginning at 5:00 p.m.