



**Lyme Conservation Commission  
Minutes  
Monday, August 12, 2019 Beginning 7:00 p.m.  
At the Lyme Center Academy Building**

**Present:** Blake Allison (Chair), Tom Colgan (Secretary *pro tem*), Rebecca Hanissian (Alternate), James Monroe (Alternate), Ian Smith and Matt Stevens

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He named Rebecca and James as full voting members for the meeting.

**1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2019-07-01**

- On a motion by Tom, seconded by Ian, the July meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

**2. Land Protection and Easements**

- **No Items Submitted**

**3. Trails and Land Management**

- **Lyme Biodiversity Group Committee Update** – With Meg absent, Blake read an update she had forwarded to him previously:

“The Lyme Biodiversity Working Group (LBWG) is continuing its pro-active attack on Japanese knotweed infestations in Big Rock Preserve and at other locations along Grant Brook. In early August, a group of boys from Kingswood Camp in Piermont worked on patches on Market Street and in Big Rock. It was their second working visit. On August 14, a group of Hypertherm volunteers, organized by the Upper Valley Land Trust, will work in Big Rock, and Community College of Vermont has signed up for a second stint in early October.

The two stewards the LBWG hired at the summer’s beginning are continuing their intensive work at Big Rock and at Hewes Brook. They also are mapping knotweed sites around town.

The LBWG continues to have weekly, Tuesday meetings beginning 10:00 a.m. at the Northern Woodlands magazine’s offices on the Lyme Common. Please feel free to join us. Watch Northern Woodlands’ blog site for a feature about LBWG’s activities.

Volunteers are welcome, and we encourage you to come to a field session to learn how you can deal with knotweed on your own property. Check the LBWG out on the Lyme Conservation Commission Facebook page, or send an e-mail to either [biodiversitygroupoflyme@gmail.com](mailto:biodiversitygroupoflyme@gmail.com) or the Conservation Commission’s inbox: [conservation@lymenh.gov](mailto:conservation@lymenh.gov).”

- **Big Rock Route 10 Trailhead Damage Remedy** – After some discussion about options, it was agreed that the most expedient solution was to fill the gullied section with rip rap and accept that excessive waterflow is likely absent NH DOT’s improving the curb.



## **Trails and Land Management, cont.**

- **Re-siting Trout Brook Footbridge** – Blake reported that Lee Larson spoke to Bret Ryan who assured Lee we are “at the top of his list” once he finishes off a couple of time-consuming projects. No specific work date has been set at this point. Blake said he would speak to the Select Board about getting a load of rip rap from the Town DPW yard.

## **4. Project and Application Review**

- **33 N. Thetford Road: Special Exception Sought for Working in Wetland Buffer** – Blake said that Genie and Bill Braasch have applied to the ZBA for a special exception in conjunction in junction with a proposed expansion of their home at 33 N. Thetford Road (Tax Map 407/Lot 36). One element of their proposal includes construction of a new septic system within the 100-foot buffer of the Wetlands Conservation District on their property. This work would include a new tank and leach field.

Blake noted it has been the Conservation Commission’s long-standing position that upgrades to old septic systems likely result in a net benefit for any wetlands affected by the work of a septic system replacement. After reviewing the proposed plans, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend the work going forward as presented with the caveat that “best practices need to be observed by the contractor.

## **5. Outreach and Education**

- **No Items Submitted.**

## **6. Other Business**

- **Chaffee Pollinator Garden Update** – Matt said he had found a good seed source (Vermont Wildflower Farm) in conjunction with work he is doing for the Appalachian Trail. There was discussion about site preparation and the timing of planting. It was agreed it would be worthwhile talking to the UVLT about its efforts to create a pollinator garden at the Lyme Hill Conservation Area.
- **White Pine Needle Damage** – Blake apologized for not having contacted Jeff Smith about this problem (see 2019-07-01 CC Minutes) and said he would do so in the next few days.
- **Culvert Projects Update?** – Due to Ben’s absence, there was not an opportunity to be briefed on the current state of culvert repair work.

## **7. Publicity**

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item** – Blake said he will supply an article.



## 8. Adjournment

On a motion by Matt, seconded by Rebecca, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The minutes were prepared principally by Tom Colgan with some editorial input from Blake

A handwritten signature in black ink. The text reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Secretary" is written in a slightly larger, more formal script than the name.

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The next regularly scheduled 2019 meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will be moved to the second Monday of September, the 9<sup>th</sup>, due to the Labor Day Holiday's occurrence on the Commission's regular first Monday meeting date. The meeting will be in the Lyme Center Academy building beginning at 7:00 p.m.