

**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2015**



Members Present:

Blake Allison (Chair), Russell Hirschler (Vice Chair), Tom Colgan, Joanna Jaspersohn, MaryBeth Keifer (Alternate), Lee Larson (Alternate), James Munroe, Ian Smith (Alternate), Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.) and Matt Stevens

Public Present:

Steve Rich and Meg Sheehan

Blake called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Blake introduced Meg Sheehan who is interested in serving on the Conservation Commission. A discussion ensued regarding Meg's background and her interest in serving on the Commission

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2015-04-06

- The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Pond View Apartments Conservation Easement Proposal** – **Blake** reported that the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) and Pond View's property owner have begun some preliminary discussion about a conservation easement being placed on the property. It is a 50 acre parcel on NH Rt. 10 a few hundred yards north of the highway's junction with Goose Pond Rd. Blake said UVLT VP of Conservation Peg Merrens had asked him if the Commission would do a site assessment to get a preliminary evaluation of whether the property was a high value easement target. It was noted the property is in proximity to several pieces of conserved land and might be of interest as a building block in a larger conserved holding. Blake said he would let Meg know of the Commission's preliminary assessment. It was agreed a site visit should be tabled until a later date.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **"Trails Day" Planning** – **Lee** proposed that the town's trails be surveyed prior to "Trails Day," this year on Saturday, June 6, to determine whether any were in need of maintenance. **Blake** said he had walked both the Big Rock and The Chaffee trails, and they were in good shape. He said he would walk the Town Forest Trail, and **Ian** volunteered to check out the Trout Pond Forest Trail. Blake proposed that if other trails did not need work, the day should be spent working to eradicate terrestrial invasive plants from Big Rock.
- **Chaffee Sanctuary Wildlife Viewing Blind** – **Russell** said he and Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) Trails Programs Dir. John Taylor had come up with a preliminary cost estimate of about \$1500 for materials and an additional \$500 in labor to build the proposed viewing blind. It was agreed that funding could come from the Commission's Town Meeting approved budget and the Conservation Fund. As with the 2014 foot bridge project, the work would be done by the UVTA's High School Trails Corps under John's and his supervision. Blake said he had identified a potential spot at Little Post Pond's

Trails and Land Management, cont.

- eastern end that would be minimally intrusive and would have dry access. It was agreed the project should go forward, and the work would be scheduled for mid-July 2015.
- **Canoes at Trout Pond – Joanna** reported she had received an inquiry on the Commission's Facebook page regarding storing canoes at Trout Pond. The general sentiment was that recreational use of the pond should be encouraged but that canoe storage should not be. It was noted that canoes left at the pond were in effect public property, and the Commission and Town could not held be responsible for their security. Joanna said she would draft a statement for the Facebook page and submit it for review before posting.

4. Project and Application Review

- **Pinnacle Project Site Visit – Blake** said he had been in contact with principals of the Pinnacle Project about scheduling a site visit in the near future. He said there had been no response regarding availability or whether the site had been staked out yet to show where the proposed project's boundaries would be.
- **141 Dorchester Rd. Site Visit – Blake** said the property owner has proposed tearing down the existing structure, an expanded 1850s era cape style house in bad repair. It would be replaced with a two-story structure whose footprint would be smaller than the current one but would be closer to the stream in its rear. All of the work would occur within the stream's Shoreland Protection District. The septic also would be upgraded. After discussion, it was agreed that upgrading the septic system would be a plus for the stream, and the project should be supported. Matt suggested the property owner be urged to plant vegetation as a buffer in the site's rear. Meg suggested the Commission recommend restrictions on fertilizer and pesticides on the property. Blake encouraged individual commissioners to visit the property but said he would not schedule a formal site review. He said he would wait a week before sending a finding to the ZBA if members wanted to make additional comment.

5. Outreach and Education

- **"Green Up Day" Recap – Blake** observed that "Green Up Day" had been very successful with most of the town's roads receiving coverage by teams and individuals. He said he had not had time to compile the final results but would do so and make them available next week.

6. Other Business

- **"Big Rock" Beaver Dam(s) – Blake** noted that the two beaver dams in Big Rock Preserve had been breached and expressed the cause may have been human in origin. **Matt** said it might have been a natural occurrence and that he would go over and review the situation.
- **Volunteer Lake Assessment Program 2015 Scheduling – Lee** noted that the 2015 sampling needed to be scheduled. He said he would once again help at Reservoir Pond but that someone was needed to help at Post Pond. **Joanna** volunteered to assist. A selection of possible dates will be offered to state testing agent.

Other Business, cont.

- **Eurasian Milfoil at Post Pond** – Ian said he would be attending a meeting of the NH Lakes Association and wanted to know whether Lyme had a volunteer lake host program such as the one the association helps to organize. There was a review of the Post Pond Eurasian milfoil timeline. Blake explained the past difficulty in getting volunteers to watch the pond. Jay reviewed the problems the Select Board encountered trying to establish a committee to work on the milfoil situation. He said the state would hold a training session this summer to instruct volunteers regarding milfoil “spotting.”

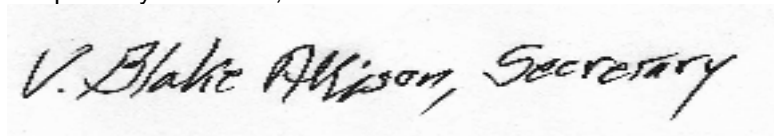
7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item re “Trails Day”** – Blake said he would submit a notice regarding the upcoming “Trails Day” activity.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

V. Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 1st at the Lyme Center Academy Building.