

**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2015**



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

Public Present: Vicki Smith

Blake called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He announced that the Select Board had approved Meg's appointment to the Commission.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2015-05-04

- The May meeting minutes were approved as submitted unanimously.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Bailey/Clay Brook Easement Update – Blake** reported that fund raising was lagging regarding efforts to acquire a conservation easement on the so called Bailey/Clay Brook parcel at the junction of NH Rt. 10 and Whipple Hill Rd., according to Peg Merrens at the Upper Valley Land Trust.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **“Trails Day” Planning –** Several Commission members submitted reports regarding current conditions on the town's trails. After review, it was decided to send crews out to remove blow downs from the Western Town Forest and Trout Pond Forest trails. **Ian** suggested that the blazes on the Trout Pond Trail be repainted. He also proposed relocating the trail's last 100 yards to reduce the grade's pitch. It was agreed that further assigning of workers could be done when volunteers gathered at The Common on Saturday, June 6.

4. Project and Application Review

- **Pinnacle Project Site Visit Review – Blake** opened a review of the May 15 visit to the proposed Pinnacle Project site at Loch Lyme Lodge. After input from several members, the Commission unanimously voted to endorse **Tom's** suggestion that the Commission inform the ZBA it had “concerns about the project's cumulative impact on the site.”
- **26 Market Street Proposed Plan – Vicki Smith** presented details of proposed work at her soon to be acquired property at 26 Market Street. Vicki said she wants to relocate the existing driveway from the Grant Brook side of the house to its west side. She also intends to remove an existing tool shed from that area. Finally, she proposes re-grading the land around the house's foundation to alleviate a basement-flooding problem. The driveway and tool shed removal as well as some of the re-grading would take place in the Grant Brook Shoreland Protection District. After reviewing the plans, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend the ZBA let the proposed work go forward finding the removal of impervious surface from near the brook and the planting of a shrub buffer along it represented a net gain in quality for the buffer area.

5. Outreach and Education

- **No items submitted**

6. Other Business

- **Basswood Tree Update – Blake** observed that the tree had leafed out well showing only a few, small dead branches. He said the next step was to get an assessment of the tree's health. Lyme resident and former Dartmouth College arborist Robert Thebedo has volunteered to participate in that undertaking. Grafton County Forester Dave Falkenham also will help with the evaluation. The goal is to develop a long-term care plan for the tree, Blake said.

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item – Blake** said he would submit a piece on the monarch butterfly's current, dire plight.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 6 at the Lyme Center Academy Building.