

**Lyme Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
August 3, 2015**



MEMBERS PRESENT: Blake Allison (Chair), Russell Hirschler (Vice-Chair), Lee Larson (Alternate), James Munroe, Meg Sheehan (Alternate), Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.) and Matt Stevens

Blake called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He appointed Lee and Meg as full voting members for the night's meeting.

**1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2015-07-06**

- The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted

**2. Land Protection and Easements**

- **Town Forest Conservation Easement – Lee** re-opened discussion regarding this matter. It had first been raised at the April 6, 2015 meeting (see 2015-04-06 CC Minutes). He presented a document prepared by the Town of Deerfield, NH's Conservation Commission when it put before its Annual Meeting the question of placing conservation easements on the Deerfield's town forests. The document addressed FAQs pertaining to establishing conservation easements on town property. Lee noted that the primary concern is protecting the town forest in perpetuity. The town forest was established by a vote at Annual Meeting. Without easement protection, voters could rescind that status.

Meg asked whether the easement could include language ending logging and preserving the forest in a wild state. Lee noted that the recently updated Town Forest Management Plan (July 2013) advocated limited logging to provide a variety of habitats attractive to different kinds of avian and mammalian species.

It was noted that Commissioner Tom Colgan had expressed some reservations about the undertaking but was not able to attend the August 3 meeting to take part in the discussion. It was agreed to table the discussion until the September meeting in order to have Tom's participation.

- **Bailey Pasture on Rt. 10 North – Lee** said David Roby approached him about a possible conservation easement purchase on a hayfield/corn field plot of land near the Orford line on NH Route 10. This was the same piece of property the Commission assessed in 2009 at the request of then property owners Dan and Millie Bailey. At the time it was noted part of the site contained a former town dump and that the Commission and town did not want to be responsible for its clean up. Lee said David had expressed an interest in discussing the matter with the Commission. It was agreed to table the matter until David made such a presentation.

AS APPROVED 2015-09-14

- **Clay Brook Frontage and Farmland Easement – Blake** reported that the Upper Valley Land Trust announced it had successfully conserved the parcel referred to previously in these notes as the Bailey/Clay Brook property. The approximately 50-acre property includes a hay field on Rt. 10's east side and almost 2000 feet of frontage along Clay Brook across the road. (See 2014-12-01 and 2015-01-05 CC Minutes). The Conservation Commission donated \$15,000 towards the purchase using money from Lyme's Conservation Fund.

### **3. Trails and Land Management**

- **Chaffee Boardwalk Repairs – Blake** reported that one plank was broken on the longer of the two boardwalks. He said Kevin Peterson had donated a replacement board. He said at least one other plank likely would need replacing this season. No boards are left in reserve. Russell suggested that Kevin might be willing to donate a few more boards.

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

- **No items submitted.**

### **5. Outreach and Education**

- **Chaffee Wildlife Viewing Blind Update – Blake reported** that the Upper Valley Trails Alliance's (UVTA) High School Trails Corps team had completed two days of work on the blind. The site was cleared, the foundation and deck were installed and two walls had been put up. He said work had been delayed somewhat, because the structure was moved a few feet back from its original sites to allay concerns of a couple of Post Pond Lane residents about privacy and the blind's visibility. Another workday is scheduled for Monday, August 24.

### **6. Other Business**

- **No items submitted**

### **7. Publicity**

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item – Blake** said he would submit something.

### **8. Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14 at the Lyme Center Academy Building.