

**Lyme Conservation Commission
Minutes
November 2, 2015**



Present: Blake Allison (Chair) Tom Colgan, Lee Larson (Alternate), Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.) and Matt Stevens

Blake called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and appointed Lee as a regular voting member for the meeting.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2015-10-05

- On a motion by **Tom** seconded by **Lee**, the October meeting minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Hewes Brook Easement Monitoring Report** – **Blake** summarized the results of the Upper Valley Land Trust's (UVTA) annual easement monitoring at Hewes Brook in which he participated along with monitor Steve Campbell. Blake noted that the main item of concern was the spread of Japanese knotweed farther down Hewes Brook to the outflow wetland. It was agreed aggressive action (Roundup treatment?) was warranted for the spring when the knotweed begins to grow again.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Chaffee Wildlife Viewing Blind Update** – **Blake** reported that Russell and John Taylor of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance have scheduled a workday on the viewing blind for Thursday, November 5th.

4. Project and Application Review

- **Schedule Site Visit for Hewitt at 11 Pinnacle Rd.** – **Blake** presented an application for a variance submitted by property owner Sue Hewitt. The ZBA asked that the Conservation Commission review the proposed project that would entail constructing a 750 square foot apartment as an addition to an existing garage. The structure would be completely within the "Shoreline Protection District" buffer and also would intrude into the property line setback zone. After reviewing and discussing the plans, it was membership's unanimous opinion that the facts of the case were as presented, and that a site visit was not warranted. Blake said he would write the ZBA informing it that the Commission had no additional concerns beyond what was reviewed.
- **O'Hara Dam Project** – Re-opening discussion, **Tom** asked whether the Commission might have taken a more pro-active position regarding Dan O'Hara's dam restoration project. Tom noted that the Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) Wetlands Bureau had told Dan not to bother to apply, because his application would be rejected. Commissioners found it puzzling that DES Wetlands would take such a stand when no one from the bureau has visited the site. It was agreed Dan should apply and have "his day in court."

5. Outreach and Education

- **Big Rock Outdoor Classroom MOU Review** – **Blake** asked for comment on the Memorandum of Understanding submitted by Lyme School 3rd Grade teacher Trisha Shipman regarding her class's use of the Big Rock Sanctuary as an outdoor classroom. It was agreed her proposal was sound but that approval was conditional on clearing the use of a fire pit with Town Fire Warden Don Elder and Lyme Fire Dept. Chief Michael Hinsley's authorization.

6. Other Business

- **Appropriation for Blake's Out-of-Pocket Chaffee Expense** – **Blake** submitted receipts totaling \$144 for bark mulch purchased in conjunction with building a trail between the Chase Beach parking area and the Trout Brook footbridge. Re-imbursement was approved unanimously on a motion by **Tom** seconded by **Matt**.

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item** – **Blake** volunteered to submit a piece on safety in the woods during hunting season.

8. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Allison, Secretary pro tem

The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7 at the Lyme Center Academy Building.

