

**Lyme Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2014**



PRESENT: Members – Blake Allison, Tom Colgan, Joanna Jaspersohn, Lee Larson, Sue MacKenzie (Select Board Rep.), Matt Stevens and Heather Toulmin

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jeff Valence, Ursula Slate, Noah Taylor,

**Blake** called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **1. Public Hearing on Post Pond Eurasian Milfoil Control Donation**

**Blake** opened the public session at 7:05 p.m. There being no members of the public present to offer comment, he closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

**Blake** called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. and appointed Lee to full member status for the session.

### **2. Review and Approve Minutes from 5/05/2014**

- On a motion by **Matt**, seconded by **Tom**, the meeting minutes of 5/05/2014 were approved unanimously.

### **3. Land Protection and Easements**

- **No items submitted.**

### **4. Trails and Land Management**

- **Trails Day Project(s)** – It was decided this year’s “Trails Day” maintenance focus would be Big Rock Preserve, Lower Grant Brook and Trout Pond Forest. It was agreed volunteers would assemble on The Common’s backside at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday to car pool to the work sites. **Blake** said he would put the information on the Lyme Listserv. In a related matter, **Tom** said he would mow the Chaffee trails.
- **Chaffee/Town Beach Connecting Trail and Bridge** – **Blake** said a group of four Commissioners gathered at the Chaffee at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 29 to meet with John Taylor of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) to assess siting possibilities for the proposed bridge. Two places were identified. Interestingly, both had stonework embedded in the Chase Beach side of the brook’s embankment which otherwise is solely clay. John recommended a structure comprised of two, 30 foot long, hemlock logs topped by a three-foot wide deck. The possibility of a railing was discussed too. John estimated the cost would be between \$880 and \$1,000. Sources of funding were discussed. He and Russ agreed some prep work could be done in advance to ensure the UVTA’s “Trails Corps” team could finish the bridge in the two days allocated for the group to be in Lyme in July. It was suggested Ben Hudson be contacted regarding sourcing the hemlock logs.

## 5. Project and Application Review

- **May 12 Site Visit Follow Up – Blake** noted that Commissioners should have received copies of the letters he submitted to the ZBA regarding the site visits. He reported that both projects had been approved to go ahead as submitted.

## 6. Outreach and Education

- **Lyme School Playground Renovation – Principal Jeff Valence and Playground Committee Member Ursula Slate** appeared before the Commission to present plans for a proposed project that would turn the swale and seasonal stream behind the school into a “teaching classroom.” Jeff described it as a “playground in the environment.” The project would involve disturbance of the wetland area due to raising the existing crossing that connects the playground to the ball field, improvements to the culvert that goes through the crossing and the introduction of some structures at the area’s perimeters also would have an impact. At the same time, said Jeff, steps would be taken to improve the area’s eco-system through plantings of native shrubs and grasses with the goal of making it more “wildlife friendly.”

Jeff said the wetland area had been delineated and a permit application was being readied for submission to the NH Dept. of Environmental Services (DES). He asked whether the Commission would be willing to submit a letter of support with it. After some discussion, it was agreed the plan had considerable merit. **Tom** moved and **Matt** seconded, “that the Commission write a letter to DES stating our strong support.” It passed unanimously, and Blake said he would draft such a letter.

## 7. Other Business

- **No items submitted.**

## 8. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News – Blake** said he would submit notes on the Commission’s involvement with the Lyme School playground project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, there will be no July meeting of the Conservation Commission.

The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 4 at 7:00 pm at the Lyme Center Academy Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*