



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Russell Hirschler (Vice Chair), Lee Larson (Alternate)
James Munroe and Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.)

Public: John Mecchella, Dan O'Hara, Brian Vincent (CLD Engineering) and Jeff
MacQueen

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

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2016-05-02

- On a motion by **Russ**, seconded by **James**, the 2016-05-02 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **LCIP Holdings Review** – **James** reported that NH Office of Energy and Planning Stewardship Specialist Steve Walker had contacted him about visiting several properties that are held in conservation easement through the State's Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP). James said this survey is part of an ongoing review process to confirm compliance with LCIP's provisions. James said the visit is to take place on Wednesday, June 8 and that he and Blake would survey a property with Steve.
- **Orford Conservation – Discuss Conservation Projects of Mutual Interest** – **Jeff MacQueen** from the Orford Conservation Commission presented a proposal that the Lyme and Orford Con Comm's explore ways the two groups might collaborate on conservation projects of mutual concern. This could include, he said, linking trails or creating wildlife corridors across the shared municipal boundary among other possibilities. There was unanimous agreement this was a worthwhile endeavor that should be pursued going forward.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Chaffee Signage Proposal** – In the wake of the Chaffee Sanctuary's wildlife viewing blind's recent completion, **Russ** proposed some signage possibilities. The first would be post-mounted maps at both the Route 10 pull-off and the Chase Beach parking area access. The second would be signs at both the footbridge and the new wildlife viewing blind stating that the projects were the result of a collaborative effort by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, the Lyme Conservation Commission and The Lyme Foundation. It was agreed both signage proposals should be undertaken. Russ said he would present a cost estimate before going ahead. Lee recommended that trail markers be set out as needed.

Trails and Land Management, cont.

- **Post Pond Water Gauge – Blake** reported that he and Matt installed a new water gauge at the Post Pond boat launch. In an ensuing discussion about the history of monitoring the pond's water level and the impact of beaver activity on outflow down Clay Brook, it was clear that disagreement exists between the Select Board and Commission members about breaching of beaver dams and water level management. **Jay** contended that RSA 210: 9 gives the Town broad latitude to decide when conditions warrant breaching a Clay Brook beaver dam. Some Commission members argued that the Town appointed the Commission to manage the Chaffee Sanctuary and that the Commission has the authority under the Post Pond Water Release Policy (see Town of Lyme web site) to determine under what conditions a dam should be breached. Jay said he would take the matter up with the Select Board.
- **Holt's Ledge Intrusion Update – Lee** reported that he and **Matt** surveyed the Town's land holding at Holt's Ledge to determine whether an unauthorized climbing route course trespassed on town land. He said GPS readings determined it did. He raised the concern that if the Town did not seek the course's removal, it might face liability under the legal tenant of "known hazard." **Jay** agreed it likely would and that the matter was being investigated.
- **Invasive Terrestrial Species Action Plan – Blake** re-introduced a proposal to take action against Japanese knotweed intrusions along Clay Brook near Rt. 10's junction with N. Thetford Rd. and Hewes Brook below its River Rd. bridge crossing. It was decided to table discussion until more Commission members were present.

4. Project and Application Review

- **O'Hara Dam Repair/Restoration Project** – Property owner Dan O'Hara and CLD consulting engineer Brian Vincent appeared to present a revived proposal for repairing and restoring a damaged dam on the O'Hara property at 252 Dartmouth College Highway (See 2015-09-14 CC Minutes for a history and overview of the project). Brian said they planned to re-submit a restoration plan to the NH Dept. of Environmental Services Wetlands Division that had previously declined to review the proposal.
- **60 Dartmouth College Hwy. House Proposal** – Property owner John Mecchella and CLD consulting engineer Brian Vincent presented their proposal to construct a home on a 15 acre lot at 60 Dartmouth College Highway. As shown, the project would have some impact on wetlands and agricultural soils on the site. It would also intrude into a stream buffer. Commissioners observed that the potential impacts were minimal and agreed there was no objection to having the project move forward as presented. Blake said he would check with ZBA Administrator David Robbins to find out whether a comment letter was needed from the Commission.

5. Outreach and Education

- **Saturday, May 7: "Green Up Day" and "Lyme Day of Service" Update – Blake** said he had not been able to do a final tally of volunteer activity but that anecdotal evidence suggested this year's "Green Up Day" was the most successful on record for road coverage and number of participants. He observed that the "Lyme Day of Service" partnership undoubtedly was instrumental in helping to achieve that.

Outreach and Education, cont.

- **“Trails Day” Review – James** reported there was very limited participation in the day’s activities. He said residents Dick Jones and Elizabeth Kilmarx removed a blow down on the Town Forest Beaver Dam Trail, and that he and Lee put a coat of brown stain on the newly completed Chaffee Sanctuary wildlife viewing blind.
- **Matt’s Presentation – Blake** said he is taking care of publicity for Matt’s invasive terrestrial species talk that is to take place on Monday, June 20 at the Lyme Center Academy Building beginning at 6:00 p.m.

6. Other Business

- **Nothing Submitted**

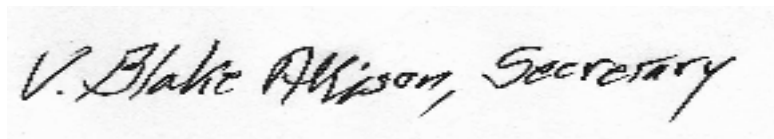
7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item --** Matt’s Presentation (see above).

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 date of the Commission’s July meeting has not been finalized due to the need to reschedule as it would fall on the July 4th holiday.