



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

PRESENT: Blake Allison (Chair and Secretary *pro tem*), Tom Colgan, James Munroe, Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.), Meg Sheehan and Matt Stevens

PUBLIC PRESENT: Bruce Hammond (property owner 31 Bliss Lane)

Blake called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2016-09-12

- On a motion by **Tom**, seconded by **James**, the September minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **“Bailey/Clay Brook Tract” Posting** – Several Commission members had reported in September that the fields of the property, located at the corner of NH Rt. 10 and Whipple Hill Road, had been posted and questioning whether the easement allowed that. They had understood there would be public access, particularly on the Clay Brook side of Rt. 10. Blake shared an e-mail exchange he had with Jason Berard of the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT), the easement holder, affirming public access on the Clay Brook side. He did not know how landowner David Russ had responded. He said he would find out from Jason and report back.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Holts Ledge Update** – Jay presented a draft management plan for the Town's property at Holt's Ledge. He said that the plan tries to strike a balance between public access and protecting the site from over use. Also of prime concern, Jay said, was keeping a buffer between rock climbers and the ledge's peregrine falcon nesting site. Jay noted that Holt's has long been a destination for ice climbers, but that sport rock climbing's surge in popularity was bringing record numbers of climbers to the site putting deleterious pressure on the resource. He said there would be an opportunity for public comment before the plan was finalized. The draft plan was met with support from Commission members.



4. Project and Application Review

- **31 Bliss Lane Hoop House and Agricultural Shed** – Property owner **Bruce Hammond** appeared before the Commission to present a proposal to construct a polyethylene hoophouse and storage tool shed in a field across the street from his home. The hoophouse will allow him to extend his growing season. At issue is placement of the structures. Both would fall within the buffer of an intermittent stream. Bruce said the field in question was chosen because it is level, dry and has the farm's best agricultural soil. He said placing the structures on the field's east side near the stream would prevent fragmentation of the field. Noting that the stream is seasonal and that both structures would be non-permanent, the Commission voted to approve the plan as presented with the recommendation that native vegetation be planted in the stream's buffer.
- **41 Culver Hill Lane Dry Hydrant** – **Fire Chief Mike Mundy** requested that the Conservation Commission visit a pond on Tavern Lane as part of the permitting process to install a dry hydrant. **Blake** reported that Tom and he visited the site on Friday, September 30. He said impact on the pond and its adjacent wooded wetland would be minimal. After a short review, members unanimously endorsed the hydrant project.
- **Kingland Farm Permitting Update** – **Blake** said that the NH Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) had approved creation of the previously discussed agricultural pond at 72 Goose Pond Rd. (see 2016-08-01 CC Minutes).

5. Outreach and Education

- **Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) Presentation** – **Blake** said he had been approached by the CRWC about whether the Commission wanted to sponsor a presentation about community involvement in the re-licensing of the Wilder Dam. According to a brochure he received, the talk would *"provide an exciting opportunity to engage civically and creatively in a policy-making process that builds community, nurtures our sense of ownership, and provides an outlet for our voices to be heard."* During the ensuing discussion there was concern regarding whether the presentation would address Lyme-specific concerns such as riverbank erosion. Also questioned was whether the project was an arts program, as the brochure seemed to infer. **Blake** said he would contact the CRWC and get more information.

6. Other Business

- **Alfred Balch Invoice for Chaffee Mowing** – On a unanimous vote, members approved paying Alfred Balch \$400 for mowing the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary on Wednesday, September 21.
- **2017 Budget Proposal Due** – **Blake** noted that proposed town budgets would be due by Thursday, October 13. There was a review of 2016 Commission expenditures year-to-date. After discussion, it was agreed that the Commission's budget 2017 request should be the same as 2016.



7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item – Blake** asked for topic suggestions.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary" in a cursive script. The signature is contained within a rectangular box.

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

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