



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

PRESENT: Blake Allison (Chair and Secretary *pro tem*), Russell Hirshler (Vice Chair), Lee Larson (Alternate) James Munroe, Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.), Meg Sheehan and Matt Stevens

PUBLIC PRESENT: Sherman Phillips (Kingland Farms) and Charles Hirshberg (CDL Engineering)

Blake called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He appointed Lee Larson as a full voting member for the evening's meeting.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2016-07-11

- On a motion by **James**, seconded by **Lee**, July meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **No items submitted**

3. Trails and Land Management

- **No items submitted**

4. Project and Application Review

Kingland Farms Ag Pond – Property owner Sherman Phillips and her consulting engineer Charles Hirshberg of CDL Engineering appeared before the Commission to present plans for a proposed agricultural pond on the grounds of Kingland Farms (formerly The Hewes Farm) located at 72 Goose Pond Road. Kingland Farms is seeking an expedited permit from the NH Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) in order to complete the work before winter sets in.

The proposed pond would be on the north side of Goose Pond Road behind an existing barn. The pond would be approximately 12' deep, 270' long and 80' across. The water would be used to irrigate a recently planted blueberry patch. A drip irrigation system would carry the pond's water to the bushes. The pond would be fed by an aquifer that flows under the meadow where the pond would be dug. Charles noted that the soil is loam over gravel and has a high water carrying capacity.

The proposed pond site is near Hewes Brook. Part of it would fall within the brook's setback. There is also wetland on the site. Charles said that installing the pond would disturb approximately 14,000 square feet of the wetland. He noted that DES allows up to 20,000 square feet of wetland impact for agricultural projects.



Project and Application Review, cont.

Some Commission members expressed concerns about the effect of the water withdrawal on Clay Brook and the subterranean water flow. Sherman noted that the drip irrigation system is highly efficient and would use less water than the irrigation process currently employed. Concern also was raised about the use of pesticides and herbicides. Sherman said the patch would be managed organically. Commission members recommended that native plant species be allowed to re-establish themselves in the buffer between Hewes Brook and the pond. It was also suggested that trees be planted at the pond site to foster shading to slow evaporation.

In the end, the Commission members present voted 5-to-1, with Blake abstaining; to support both the project as submitted and the expedited permit Kingland Farms seeks.

- **261 River Road Solar Panels – Blake** presented an overview of a proposed solar array at 261 River Road. The landowner Peter J. McLaughlin is proposing installing two 12' x 20' tracking solar arrays on the property. Each unit would be pole-mounted. Both units would fall within the town road setback as well as the shoreline protection setback. McLaughlin is applying to the ZBA for a waiver that would allow the units to be installed as proposed. Blake pointed out that both setbacks have been significantly “disturbed” and that the proposed units would not represent a significant incursion as a result.

Commission members know the property and agreed with Blake’s conclusion that a site visit was not necessary. It was moved and passed that Blake write the ZBA a letter saying the Commission saw no reason why the project shouldn’t move forward.

5. Outreach and Education

- **No items submitted**

6. Other Business

- **No items submitted**

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item:** **Blake** said he would prepare an article for submission.

8. Adjournment

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

AS APPROVED 2016-09-12



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary". The signature is written in a cursive style.

V. Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

Due to the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 5, the Commission's next meeting will take place on Monday, September 12 at the Lyme Center Academy Building beginning at 7:00 p.m.