



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Russell Hirschler (Vice Chair), Tom Colgan, Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.), Matt Stevens (Sec.), James Munroe, Lee Larson (Alt.)

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Chair Allison appointed L. Larson as voting member for the meeting

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2016-10-03

- Motion from T. Colgan, Second from J. Munroe, the October meeting minutes were approved unanimously without revision.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- No Items Submitted

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Holts Ledge Usage Guidelines Update** – J. Smith reports that the Management Plan has been submitted to Counsel in Ordinance form for review. In the proposed ordinance, bolts placed over many years will likely remain in place. The Select Board sent letters to residents of Canaan Ledge Lane and has received e-mails and other forms of feedback, mostly in favor of the proposed ordinance. Some residents articulated that lack of parking on Canaan Ledge Lane is a potential problem. M. Stevens suggested that it will be important to provide trails and other features to minimize erosion and damage to sensitive and rare plants in the area. A public hearing on the matter will be scheduled early in 2017.
- **Active Big Rock Preserve Beaver Dam** – B. Allison reported an active beaver dam in the Big Rock Preserve adjacent to the main trail on the north side. The site has been used by beavers in the past, but this dam seems larger than the most recent past activity. M. Stevens noted substantial cutting of green and black Ash saplings in the lodge and dam area and that the food source may not be adequate for a long residency. No action is needed, but some trail protection may become necessary.

4. Project and Application Review

- No Items Submitted



5. Outreach and Education

- **Lyme School 3rd Grade Big Rock Preserve Project** – M. Stevens reported items left in the area that should be removed. R. Hirschler noted that most of the items in the area had been found there by students during their outdoor classroom time. The commission agreed to assess the outdoor classroom area before inviting Trisha Shipman, third grade teacher at Lyme School, to a meeting to discuss how things are going and review the use Agreement. M. Stevens proposed that the Commission purchase a game/trail camera for use in the Big Rock Preserve to share wildlife photos on the Commission's Facebook page and other outlets. On a motion from M. Stevens, seconded by T. Colgan the Commission approved the proposal. L. Larson and M. Stevens will pursue.

6. Other Business

- **Land Use Tax Revenue Distribution Revision** – General discussion about the recent Tax Committee's findings and the potential for a LUCT Warrant Article proposing a 50/50 split of LUCT funds between the Town's general fund and the Conservation Fund. L. Larson noted that this proposal has been on the Warrant three times in the past seven years and has been defeated by Town vote each time. The relative merits of LUCT revenue distribution were discussed.
- M. Stevens volunteered to act as Secretary henceforth; members consented.

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item** – B. Allison will submit an article.

8. Adjournment

- On a motion from M. Stevens, seconded by R. Hirschler the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Stevens, Secretary

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyme Center Academy Building.