



**Lyme Conservation Commission  
Agenda  
Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.  
Lyme Center Academy Building**

PRESENT: Blake Allison (Chair), Tom Colgan, Lee Larson (Alternate), James Munroe, Meg Sheehan and Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.)

PUBLIC: Sue MacKenzie

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

**1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2017-02-06**

- On a motion by James, seconded by Meg, the February meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**2. Land Protection and Easements**

- **No Items Submitted**

**3. Trails and Land Management**

- **Post Pond Milfoil Treatment Donation – Jay** observed that Article 21 on the Warrant for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting will put before the voters a request for \$28,841 to continue annual treatments at Post Pond to suppress Eurasian milfoil. He said that the voters will be asked to approve that \$9,587 of the sum be raised by taxation. He asked whether the Commission would consider making a donation from the Conservation Fund so the taxed-raised money would not be needed.

Blake noted that in May 2014 the Commission had appropriated \$7,500 from the fund for the same purpose. At the same time, the Commission approved a motion "That the Conservation Commission establish a policy that would allow using up to 5% of the Conservation Fund for non-easement purchase, conservation-related projects on an annual basis as long as the Fund balance is a minimum of \$150,000. Funds would be dispensed at Commission's discretion subject to a public hearing." The proposed current donation would satisfy that requirement, he said.

It was decided that members of the Commission were amenable to making a donation once the total cost of the funds needed was known.

- **Holt's Ledge Rare Plant Community Survey – Blake** reported that Matt had contacted Canaan botanist Alice Shori about conducting a plant survey on Town-owned land at Holt's Ledge. The survey would determine whether endangered plants identified by a NH Natural Heritage Bureau survey on nearby government-owned property also were present on Lyme's parcel. Blake said the likely total cost would be about \$400 for fieldwork time, analysis, reporting and travel. After some discussion, it was moved by Lee and seconded by Meg that project be moved ahead. The vote in favor was unanimous.



#### 4. Project and Application Review

- **No Items Submitted**

#### 5. Outreach and Education

- **Big Rock Preserve Update – Blake** reported he had been in contact with Lyme School 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade teacher Shipman about a status report on her class's activities in the Big Rock Preserve. He said a copy of her report would be distributed to Commission members and that a site visit should be scheduled when conditions allow.
- **Pollinator Garden Project** – There was discussion about how the Commission might become involved in the Upper Valley Coalition of Pollinators Partners project. It was suggested that a pollinator garden program at the Lyme School be explored and that the Commission investigate establishing pollinator gardens on Town-owned lands. Meg and Matt have expressed interest in working on the project.
- **Vernal Pool Walk in April – Blake** proposed that the Commission sponsor a vernal pool walk again this year. James said he would help organize it and contact last year's walk leader Jim Kennedy about hosting this year's outing. It was agreed setting a date should be contingent upon field conditions in April.
- **Facebook Revamp** – Blake thanked James and, *in absentia*, Matt for their work on updating and enhancing the Commission's Facebook page. He noted that since James had posted the wildlife camera pictures, viewings had spiked way beyond any activity previously recorded. It was suggested that Alfred Balch be approached about posting some of his photos. James said he would contact Alfred.

#### 6. Other Business

- **Warrant Article 24 Response** – Meg presented her draft of a Conservation Commission response to Warrant Article 24's proposed redistribution of Land Use Change Tax revenue from the current 100% to the Conservation Fund to a 50/50 split between the fund and the Town General Fund. It states the Commission's opposition to the article. It was agreed Meg had cogently put forth arguments supporting the draft's position, and she was thanked for her efforts in that regard. After some discussion the consensus was that commissioners could engage the issue on a personal basis rather than take a Conservation Commission position.
- **River Road Reroute Concerns – Blake** noted that an appropriation for re-routing River Rd. would be on the agenda at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. He said he knew of at least one individual who planned to raise environmental concerns about the project's impact and that Commission members be aware of them as the Commission might be asked to render an opinion at some point as part of the DES permitting process.
- **Linden Tree Care – Blake** reported that Catherine Greenleaf had contacted him about an upcoming semi-annual maintenance of the linden tree on the Little Town Common. He said that through "crowdfunding" and other avenues, nearly \$1250 had been raised to help defray the cost and that the company doing the work would donate \$300 also. Jay noted that the linden tree care had been given over to Catherine's group with the understanding that the tree would be removed at the time it was determined to pose a hazard. He said no tax dollars had been appropriated for the maintenance.



### **Other Business, cont.**

- **Annual Upper Valley Conservation Commission Meeting** – This Upper Valley Land Trust hosted event will take place on Thursday, March 30 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction.
- **“Saving Special Places”** – **Lee** said this year’s conference will be held on Saturday, April 8 in Alton from 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. He said he has attended past meetings and has found them very worthwhile.

### **7. Publicity**

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item** – Blake Said he would submit an article.

### **8. Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Colgan, Secretary *pro tem*,  
with additional edits and notes by Blake Allison

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017 beginning 7:00 p.m. at the Lyme Center Academy Building.