



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Minutes
Monday, June 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Tom Colgan, Lee Larson, James Munroe, and C. Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.)

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2017-05-01

- On a motion by Tom, seconded by James, the May minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.
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2. Land Protection and Easements

- **No Items Submitted**

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Holt's Ledge Rare Plant Community Survey Update – Blake** reported that botanist Alice Schori and Matt had visited the site in early May. Matt sent the following report: "Alice and I went out for a couple of hours last Friday. I still have to better flag parts of the boundary for her and we'll have to figure out a time to survey the top of the ledge as well as the ledge itself. I figure she has at least 2 more site visits to complete the survey.

On our visit last week, we found lots of squirrel corn, which is not listed in the state, but is on a watch list of conservation priorities. There were many other rich mesic forest species in bloom as well - it was really quite beautiful."

- **"Trails Day" Report – Blake** said that seven people, including a father and son team, joined James and him for trails work. He said that three people went with him to work on the trail connecting the beach parking lot with the Trout Brook. They put down a load of wood chips donated by Wayne Bates. James reported that he and the other four volunteers went to do brush clearing and water bars work on the Trout Pond Trail. He said there was a wet area where a board walk might be useful and that one blow down was across the trail near its beginning. James said hikers can navigate around it to access the trail but recommended its removal. Lee expressed an interest in taking that on.

4. Project and Application Review

- **One Pinnacle Road/Allen House Rebuilding Update – Blake** informed the commissioners present that rock debris from blasting for a new foundation had been used to line about 20 feet of the stream bank. Blake met with the property owner David Allen who said the stone had been placed to stop the stream's encroachment towards the house side. Blake said he suggested to David that he consult the DES website to see what permitting might have been required to do that work. (See 2017-04-03 CC Minutes for the Commission's ZBA requested review of the proposed work).



5. Outreach and Education

- **Pollinator Garden Project Update – Blake** reported that Matt had been discussing the Lyme School Pollinator program with project coordinator Rachel Donegan who is working to establish a couple of raised beds near the playground. Blake said he hoped to go watch the planting on Wednesday, the 8th. **Tom** said he had tilled the area in the Chaffee that Matt had sprayed, and it is ready to be planted. It was agreed the window for seeding the area is closing and it should be done as warmer drier might allow later in week.

6. Other Business

- **Hewes Brook Bridge Replacement Issues – Jay** raised two concerns regarding the forthcoming project. First, would the Commission help spray the Japanese knotweed colony located next to one of the bridge's abutments to minimize the likelihood of it spreading during construction? Second, re-locating the power lines at the bridge to accommodate crane work associated with the bridge work would require taking down a large, black locust
- **Wildflower Walk Report – James** said eight people attended and that Alice Schori led a very informative outing. He said the choice of Lower Grant Brook Trail was somewhat problematic, because its narrow width made it difficult for attendees to gather around to hear and observe Alice when she was talking.
- **Milfoil Treatment Appropriation Vote – Blake** said that Lee had noted that following the May 1st public hearing; there was no vote to approve removing the money from the Conservation Fund for donation to the town (see 2017-05-01 Public Hearing minutes). On a motion by Tom, seconded by James, the Commission unanimously voted to appropriate from the Conservation Fund the sum of \$9587 to defray the town's share of costs associated with the 2017 Post Pond Eurasian milfoil treatment.
- **Holt's Ledge Special Town Meeting Petition – Jay** offered some comments on a recently submitted citizens petition seeking a special town meeting to reconsider the Select Board's April 27, 2017 vote that had order climbing bolt removal at Holt's Ledge. Jay said the petition had the requisite number of signatures and that scheduling such a meeting is controlled by a series of scheduling and posting steps. He said mid-August was likely the earliest the meeting could be held. Jay noted that the Board had the authority to make the decision concerning these matters under RSA 41:11-a. Any vote at a special town meeting regarding this issue would be advisory only, he concluded

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item – Blake** said he would provide an article for the newsletter.



8. Adjournment

- Blake adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

V. Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

Due to the Fourth of July holiday occurring on the Tuesday the day after our normal "first Monday of the month" meeting, the Commission's next meeting will take place on Monday, July 10 at the Lyme Center Academy Building beginning at 7:00 p.m.