



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Russel Hirschler (Vice Chair), Tom Colgan, Sue MacKenzie (Select Board Rep) and Matt Stevens

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

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2018-10-08

- On a motion by Tom, seconded by Sue, the October minutes were accepted as submitted. Russ abstained, because he did not attend that meeting.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **No Items Submitted**

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Lyme/Orford Boundary Perambulation** – Sue reported that the boundary survey had been completed but did not have any particulars about it. She said she would provide them later.

4. Project and Application Review

- **River Road Update** – Prior to the meeting's start, **Sue** showed a video, provided by the project's contractor. It showed a drone-produced, aerial view of the work done to date. Trees have been cleared and preliminary grading of the planned road bed has begun. She said the old road had been stabilized allowing for its re-opening with a one lane passage for traffic.

5. Outreach and Education

- **No Items Submitted**

6. Other Business

- **Mud Turtle Pond Road** – Blake said that in mid-October he was contacted by Whipple Hill Road resident Bob Lee who was planning to do some timber thinning on his property. Part of Bob's property abuts Mud Turtle Pond Road. The road has been impassable since July 1, 2017 when an unusually heavy rain storm washed out a section of road just above the sugaring house located on it about 50 yards in from Whipple Hill Road. Bob had hired Orford Forester John O'Brien to do the work, and John had asked whether the Commission would let him use the log landing sited on the part of Town Forest land formerly known as the Young Tract. Blake said that in exchange, John offered to repair the road making it passable for his equipment and when finished would improve its drainage and add water bars. Blake forwarded the proposal with a positive endorsement to the Select Board who accepted it.



- **Budgeting Issues – Sue** said it is expected that the Conservation Fund will receive \$40K in land use change tax revenue over the next two months. She said that in light of the Town's ongoing efforts to keep tax rates level, and the Conservation Fund's balance, it has been proposed to cut the Conservation Commission's annual funding from the Town budget. Blake pointed out that the Commission's budget has been at \$2100 annually since 2015, and that the expense represents about a \$1.10/per capita. He and other Commissioner's acknowledged that the Conservation Fund's size warranted an assessment of how it could be used to benefit the Town. Matt suggested it might be more efficient, and beneficial to the Town, to keep the Commission's funding intact while using some of the Fund's money to help pay for conservation-related projects such as culvert replacement and Eurasian milfoil treatments at Post Pond. After further discussion, it was agreed that Matt's proposal should be offered to the Select Board and Budget Committee. Sue said she would do so.

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item – Blake** said he would produce an article.

8. Adjournment

- On a motion by Tom, seconded by Russ, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The next regular meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, December 3, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Lyme Academy building.