



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Minutes
Monday, January 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Tom Colgan, Lee Larson (Alternate), Sue MacKenzie (Select Board Rep) Meg Sheehan and Matt Stevens

Public: Rob Wipfler

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and appointed Lee as a full voting member for the meeting.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2018-12-03

- On a motion by Meg, seconded by Tom the minutes of the December meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Conservation Fund Donation to UVLT for Pinnacle Improvements – Blake** noted that the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) had reached its fundraising goal that will create an endowment to help manage the newly conserved Pinnacle land. He proposed that the Conservation Commission donate from the Conservation Fund to the UVLT to help pay for improvements the property needed to facilitate public access. He said in a discussion with UVLT president Jeanie McIntyre trail enhancement, creation of a parking area on the site of an old log landing off Highbridge Rd. and re-connecting existing trails were identified as priorities. Blake proposed a \$10,000 donation.

In the ensuing discussion, concern was expressed about whether this was an appropriate gift given that the UVLT had surpassed its goal of \$120K, raising \$150K. Did the UVLT really need the money? Would townspeople think the donation was necessary? It was also remarked that the Commission has committed to other 2019 Fund withdrawals for the purpose of milfoil treatment at Post Pond and culvert replacement. Blake noted the Pinnacle's historic relevance to the town and that it was a much used, popular recreation site. Shouldn't the Commission be supporting it? Tom moved that \$5000 be appropriated with the stipulation it be used for parking area-related expenses. Sue seconded, and the motion passed 4-to-1.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Lyme Biodiversity Working Group Committee re Lyme Foundation Proposal – Meg** gave a status report on a funding proposal for the Lyme Biodiversity Working Group Committee (LBWGD) that was formed in the wake of last fall's Japanese knotweed workshop. She shared a grant request that will be presented to the Lyme Foundation later in January. It is seeking \$5,000/year for three years to help finance operations, especially to pay a stipend to a college level or above worker for field work. The LBWGD also is requesting the Commission make a one-time contribution of \$1,000 to help support the project.



Trails and Land Management, cont.

In the ensuing deliberation there was a question regarding the Commission's participation. Since all of the work would take place on Commission managed lands, shouldn't its financial support be larger? After further discussion, Matt proposed that the Commission offer the Lyme Foundation a match program. For each of three consecutive years, for every two dollars contributed by the Foundation, the Commission would add one dollar. Tom put that motion on the floor, and it was seconded by Matt. The motion was approved 4-to-1.

4. Project and Application Review

- No Items Submitted

5. Outreach and Education

- No Items Submitted

6. Other Business

- **Culvert Replacement** – Sue gave a brief overview of how construction plans are proceeding. Commissioners re-iterated their willingness to appropriate funds to help support the project.

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item** – Blake will submit a piece.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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 located below the "Respectfully submitted," text.

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The next regular meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Lyme Academy building.