



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Minutes
Monday, April 1, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair/Secretary *pro tem*), Tom Colgan, Ben Kilham (Select Board Rep), Meg Sheehan and Matt Stevens

Members Elect: David Lysy and Rebecca Perkins

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed Ben Kilham in his newly assumed role of Conservation Commission Select Board Rep.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2019-03-04

- On a motion by Matt, seconded by Blake, the minutes of the March meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **No Items Submitted**

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Lyme Biodiversity Group Committee Update – Meg** presented an update on the Biodiversity Group's status that included a review of its financing. She said they are working to hire an intern and are going to recruit volunteers from groups like the Upper Valley Land Trust and, perhaps the Lyme School. She also noted the Connecticut River Conservancy has been retained as the group's fiscal agent; a move necessitated by the mix of public and private money that will be used to fund the group's activities. A report to the Conservation Commission is included with these minutes.
- **Trails Inventory to Plan Coming Season's Work – Blake** said an inventory of town's trails would be in order once the woods have dried out enough to travel through them. The intention, he said, is to remove any obstructions across the trails and to prioritize work for Trails Day at the beginning of June. The issue will be revisited and organized at the Commission's May meeting.
- **Lower Grant Brook Trail Work This Summer – Blake** confirmed that the Upper Valley Trails Alliance High School Trails Corps has been signed on to spend a couple of days working on the Lower Grant Brook Trail. The section in question is from the trail head at the Lyme School down to the bridge that supplies access to the Lyme Hill Conservation Area trail network. Matt observed that segments of the trail should be relocated to traverse drier terrain. Presently, he said, parts of the trail never dry out.



4. Project and Application Review

- **Steve Williams (Road Agent) re Grafton Turnpike Culvert Replacement** – Steve appeared to review plans to install a new culvert in combination with beaver deceivers on a low-lying stretch of the Grafton Turnpike just north of the Lyme/Hanover town. The area is prone to flooding, because the twin culverts presently there do not drain properly and beaver activity results in blockages. Work is to take place in August/September when the wetland's water level has dropped.

5. Outreach and Education

- **iNaturalist Presentation** – Blake reported on a project he has been developing with Lyme Gardeners and Head Librarian Judy Russell at the Converse Free Library. This past March, Vermont Center for Ecostudies "Citizen Science Outreach Naturalist" Nathaniel Sharp made a presentation demonstrating the *iNaturalist* app to a gathering hosted by the Mascoma Chapter of NH Audubon. Blake explained that, according to published reports, the *iNaturalist* app is "a citizen science project and online social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe." Blake said he thought such a program would be a natural for the Lyme Gardeners who agreed, and that Judy Russell volunteered to have the library be host and cosponsor. He said Nathaniel's fee for two sessions would be \$300 and asked whether the Commission, as co-sponsor, would pay half. On a motion by Tom, seconded by Meg, the Commission unanimously approved the \$150 expense.
- **Biodiversity Blitz** – Blake said that UNH Extension is sponsoring a "Biodiversity Blitz" that is to take place in the fall. The program intends to encourage NH towns to learn what kinds of plants, animals, fungi, and insects ("biodiversity") can be found on town-owned lands." Blake said the project could be a natural tie-in to the above described iNaturalist program.
- **Pollinator Garden** – The question of rejuvenating the Chaffee Sanctuary's pollinator garden was raised by Tom and Matt. The original planting was not sustained over two growing seasons. It was agreed that expanding and replanting with a fresh seed mix was a good course of action. Tom and Matt said they would purchase seed and coordinate the site's preparation.
- **"Green Up Day" Will be on Saturday, May 4** – Blake said he again was coordinating the day's activity with CommunityCare of Lyme's (CCL) "Day of Service." The day will start with a community wide breakfast at the Lyme School beginning at 8:30 a.m. Sign up will be through either CCL's website or by using the Conservation Commission's inbox.

6. Other Business

- **Baker Hill Road Culvert Project Update** – Ben said the disagreement between the property owner and the Town over granting access to replace a failing culvert had been amicably resolved and that work would commence when conditions improved.



7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item – Blake** said the posting would focus on promoting the planned *iNaturalist* event outlined under “Outreach and Education” and “Green Up Day.”

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The next regular meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, May 6, 2019 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Lyme Academy Building.



**Report to Conservation Commission
From Lyme Biodiversity Working Group**

Date: April 1, 2019

1. Funding

Received grant from Lyme Foundation: FY 2019: \$2,284, FY 2020 \$1,834, FY 2021 \$1834

Private donor: \$500

Another private donor is interested in contributing

Fiscal agent: Connecticut River Conservancy (formal agreement signed)

2. Outreach:

Doing outreach to landowners abutting Grant Brook, tabled at Town Meeting

3. Students/Volunteer:

Current intern Amber Jones from Community College of VT (CCV) – preparing outreach materials, signage, etc. Interviewed one Hanover HS student for job, interviewing 2d one Tuesday 4/2.

CCV Natural History Course, Summer 2019-integrating the project in to their course, plan to do 3 work days.

UVLT-on board, planning to send volunteers

4. Technology/tools:

Planning to use UNH tool “picture post;” option to include our materials on Conservation Commission Facebook page?

5. Work days:

April 13

April 20/22

May 4, 18

June 1, 15 and 27

July 13 and 15-includes CCV, 26

August 10

Sept. 7, 28