



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Tom Colgan (Secretary *pro tem*), Rebecca Hanissian (Alternate), Meg Sheehan and Matt Stevens

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He named Rebecca as a full voting member for the meeting.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2019-12-16

- On a motion by Matt, seconded by Tom, the December minutes were approved as submitted

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) Easement Transfer** – Blake reported that he had signed off with an approval on behalf of the Commission regarding an easement transfer from the CRC to the Upper Valley Land Trust. Under an article approved by the voters at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, supported by the Commission, the transfer removes the Town from its executory status on the easement (see 2019-02-04 CC Minutes).

3. Trails and Land Management

- **UVTA 2020 Trail Enhancements Proposal Update – Big Rock Bench** – Blake reported that Russell, in the course of preparing a Lyme Foundation grant proposal for next season's Town Forest trail work (see 2019-12-16 CC Minutes), had been asked about the possibility of replacing the bench in Big Rock that was toppled into Grant Brook when the bluff where it was sited collapsed. Matt expressed reservations about replacing something that originally was placed without the Commission's permission. Other Commissioners expressed concerns about introducing objects into the Town's nature preserves. It was agreed the matter should be taken under advisement.

4. Project and Application Review

- **14 On the Common** – Blake said there was no update to report.
- **Crossroads Academy Swale Repair** – Philip Harrison, representing Crossroads Academy, and Rod Finley, of Pathways Consulting, appeared before the Commission to present a proposal for restoring a water management swale at Hews Brook. It had been severely damaged by a series of heavy rain events. The work also would include bank stabilization along the brook to repair damage caused by the swale's degradation. There was agreement that steps should be taken to repair the swale and the brook's embankment. Concerns were raised about whether a repair without redirecting water flow elsewhere would just set the stage for more embankment damage in the future.



Crossroads Academy, cont.

It was agreed by all parties that an alternative course for the swale should be investigated. Matt moved and Tom seconded that Blake send a letter to the ZBA giving the commission's approval of the proposal to repair the existing problems with the qualification that an alternative course not ending at the brook be pursued. Passed unanimously.

- **729 River Road Boat House Foundation Repair** – Plans were reviewed for a proposed replacement of the foundation supporting a boathouse on Clay Brook at 729 River Road (Meyer property Map 405/Lot 36). The work requires a NHDES wetlands permit. Should the Commission view the project favorably, it is asked to waive its right to subsequent intervention.

The work is necessitated because the existing wooden piling supports have been pushed out of alignment by the constant rising and falling of the Connecticut River's water level. Under the proposal, additional pilings would be installed at each of the structure's four corners. These then would be capped with concrete to securely hold them in alignment. In addition, below surface concrete beams would replace the existing wooden foundation supports to provide a stable platform for the structure. The boathouse footprint would not increase in size. A cofferdam would be built to keep water out of the site during construction and siltation fences would be installed to contain runoff. On a motion by Matt, seconded by Rebecca, the Commission voted unanimously to support the proposed project and to waive its right to further review.

- **River Road Bank Stabilization** – The Town of Lyme asked the Commission to review a NHDES Wetlands Permit Application it is planning to submit pertaining to proposed work that would correct a subsidence problem on the south end of River Road. The area in question is in the Society for Protection New Hampshire's Forests' (SPNHF) "Hidden Valley" area just north of the Hanover/Lyme boundary. Along that stretch, the road is just a few feet from the Connecticut River. The riparian buffer has been eroding causing the buffer to diminish and the adjacent road surface to fracture. The Town is proposing "armoring" the riverbank with riprap while restoring and expanding the buffer. On a motion by Tom, seconded by Rebecca, the Commission voted unanimously to support the proposed project and to waive its right to further review.

5. Outreach and Education

- **No Items Submitted**

6. Other Business

- **Wilder Dam Recertification Resolution** – Blake said he earlier Monday received an e-mail from the Connecticut River Conservancy requesting that all "river towns" "pass a resolution on Town Meeting Day and submit that resolution as comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to clearly communicate the towns' ongoing concerns and interest in making sure that project operations are changed to minimize erosion of the riverbanks, and that towns and property owners are compensated for loss of land, or needed streambank stabilization work to protect their land and infrastructure." Blake said he would forward the request to all members as well as a photographic booklet assembled by a Lyme resident, and Connecticut River Joint Commission member, John Mudge who has been an outspoken presence on the issue of river-caused erosion. Blake said the matter could be reviewed at the Commission's February meeting.

As Approved 2020-03-02



Other Business, cont.

- **New State Wetland Regulations Info** – The new regulations took effect on December 15, 2019. Blake said he would forward relevant links provided by the NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions.

7. Publicity

- Blake already has supplied an article for the December/January Lyme Community and Church News.

8. Adjournment

On a motion from Tom, seconded by Meg, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The minutes were recorded by Tom Colgan with edits made by Blake.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, February 3, 2020 at the Lyme Center Academy Building beginning 7 p.m.