



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
UberConference Call**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Tom Colgan, David Lysy (Alternate) and Meg Sheehan

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. He appointed David to serve as a full voting member for the meeting.

Before commencing the business portion of the meeting, Blake presented the document “**A Checklist to Ensure Meetings Are Compliant with The Right-to-Know Law During the State of Emergency.**” (copy attached). Blake explained that because the Lyme Center Academy Building is closed to the public, certain requirements for public meeting access must be met to be in compliance with Governor Sununu’s Executive Order allowing for town boards and committees to meet online.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2020-07-06

- On a motion by Tom, seconded by David, the July meeting minutes were confirmed unanimously with Tom, David and Meg voting in the affirmative.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **LCIP 2020 Property Monitoring – Blake** reported he had received a reminder from the Conservation Land Stewardship Program that the annual inspections and corresponding monitoring reports for conservation easement lands held by the Town of Lyme through the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) are due by the end of this calendar year. He said that James Munroe, who has run the program for the previous four years, told him he would be resigning after this year’s report filing. James said he would be happy to train his successor. Blake noted that someone needs to be found to take over running the program, and that he would prefer that individual be a Conservation Commission member.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Town Forest Management Plan Review – Blake** said that Town Forest management plan author Jeff Smith reported he had completed the Town Forest survey required under the NH Tree Farm Program. Jeff said there were a number of targets in the management plan that should be revisited with goal of implementing them. He noted this should be delayed until next year in hopes the timber market improves should tree cutting be a part of that process.

Meg raised issues about making sure the Town Forest is “user friendly” in terms of signage and trail maintenance. It was agreed that should be part of any ensuing discussion and planning. It also was agreed the management plan should be reviewed to make sure its goals are consistent with Conservation Commission’s intentions. Blake suggested this could be taken up at the next meeting.



- **Trout Pond Forest Improvements – Blake** said Russell had forwarded to him comments from a UVTA board member regarding Trout Pond Forest and what improvements could be implemented to make negotiating the trail network easier. He said the writer's line of comment was very similar to what was just discussed regarding the Town Forest. Blake recommended that a review should be combined with the one planned for the Town Forest. Hopefully, that can occur, he said, when Russell and Matt are available to lend their trails expertise.
- **LBWG Japanese Knotweed Eradication Update – Meg** reported that the program has been progressing well during the 2020 season. She said the three interns hired for the season had been very helpful and noted that discernible progress has been made managing a couple of Japanese knotweed stands in the Big Rock Preserve. She said the program had received an anonymous donation to help cover overhead costs.

4. Project and Application Review

- **NH DOT Route 10 Culvert Work at Trout Brook – Blake** said this project is scheduled to begin in October, but he has not received information regarding a starting date or details about the project's scope. He said he would do a follow up inquiry about those issues.
- **NH DOT Route 10 Bridge Work at Grant Brook –** Similarly to the Trout Brook project, Blake said he had been told an October start date is planned but has not received a confirmation of when the work might proceed. He said plans call for bank stabilization at the bridge.
- **Site Visits? – Blake** said the ZBA had requested Conservation Commission comment on two applications for a special variance. Both involve an addition to an existing structure that would cause an intrusion into an adjacent body of water's Shoreline Conservation District. The first a structure owned by Roberta and Wayne Pike on Reservoir Pond. The second was submitted by Hoyt and Marianne Alverson for their property abutting the Connecticut River at 137 River Road. Commission members in attendance asked to see documents relative to each application. Blake said he would make them available via email in lieu of restrictions on sharing posed by the teleconference format.

5. Outreach and Education

- **No Items Submitted**

6. Other Business

- **Snelling "Thank You" –** On a unanimous vote, Commission members voted to appropriate \$75 as a "Thank you" to the Snelling family for its continued maintenance of the Hewes Brook Car Top Boat Launch area.
- **Wilder Dam Relicensing –** Questions were raised about what the status of this process is. David said the period for public comment by municipalities, individuals and stakeholders is approaching and suggested the Commission take the matter up at its next meeting. Blake said he would send the most recent communication from the Connecticut River Conservancy with useful links and timetable information.



7. Publicity

- Blake will supply an article for the September/October Lyme Community and Church News.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Tom, seconded by David & Meg, the meeting was adjourned ending the teleconference call at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

If matters of business warrant it, the next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will take place via remote teleconference on Monday, October 5, 2020 beginning at 5:00 p.m.