



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
ZOOM Meeting**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair and Secretary *pro tem*), Lin Brown, Rebecca Hanissian (Alternate), David Lysy (Alternate), Jill Kearney (Alternate), Susan MacKenzie, Meg Sheehan, Matt Stevens and Sara Zahendra (Alternate)

PUBLIC: Present via our video ZOOM connection – James Kennedy

Chair Allison called the meeting back into public session at 7:05 pm. He appointed Rebecca and Jill to serve as a full, voting members 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.**” Blake explained that because the Lyme Center Academy Building is closed to the public, certain requirements for public meeting access must be met to comply with Governor Sununu’s Executive Order (Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04) allowing for town boards and committees to meet online.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2021-04-05 Meeting

- On a motion by Sue, seconded by Jill, the April minutes were approved as submitted by a unanimous rollcall vote.

2. Welcome New Members

- Blake welcomed to the Commission, the five new members whose applications were approved by the Select Board at its April 22 meeting. Three are joining the Commission as full voting members. They are Lin Brown, Ann Flood and Susan MacKenzie. Jill Kearney and Sara Zahendra are joining as Alternates.

3. Land Protection and Easements

- **Easement Monitor Needed** – Blake reminded the meeting that James Munroe’s departure from the Commission means a new easement monitor needs to be found. He explained the position’s duties and expressed the hope someone would volunteer to replace James.
- **Post Pond Monitoring Program?** – Blake said that Matt had been contacted by a Lyme resident who was concerned about Post Pond’s infestation with Eurasian milfoil. The individual wondered why there was no boat monitoring program in place. Matt noted that a committee had been set up back in 2013, but nothing ever came of it. Sue and Matt volunteered to try and restart the program and said they would come up with a proposal. Blake thanked them and recommended they investigate the NH Lakes “Lake Host” monitoring program.



4. Trails and Land Management

- **Trout Brook Bank Stabilization Update** – Matt reported that, with the assistance of Jill and Lin, more than 100 sapling stakes were cut and imbedded in an eroding section of Trout Brook bounded by the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary. He said the goal is to get the stakes to root in hopes they will help stabilize the brook's bank. Matt added that planting some shade trees along the brook would be beneficial for its aquatic life.
- **Annual Post-winter Trail Inspections?** – Blake asked whether anyone had been able to get out on the trails of the Town's preserved properties to inspect for concerns like erosion and blowdowns. He said that he had walked the Chaffee's "Woodland Trail" and found it to have no problems. Jill said she had been out in the Town Forest and did not encounter issues. The Big Rock Preserve also was reported to be clear. Blake noted that this summer the Trout Pond Forest's trail system would be the focus of a rehab and upgrade effort by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance's HS Trails Corps.

5. Project and Application Review

- **"14 On the Common" Plan Revision** – This was the first of two proposals brought before the Commission by Landscape Architect/Wetland Scientist Jim Kennedy. The Commission previously had assessed this project in December 2019. At that time, it sent a favorable recommendation to the ZBA. Jim said that circumstances had created a need to revise the plans which requires a new review by the Commission. On Saturday, April 17, members of the Commission conducted a site visit with Jim and project developer Ray Clark. In sum, the revised plan is not so different from the original to raise concerns. Indeed, the newest iteration has upgraded water management and treatment. On a unanimous rollcall vote, commissioners agreed to forward the revised proposal to the ZBA with a favorable recommendation.
- **12 Baker Hill Road Culvert** – Blake provided context for the new Commission members noting that the property's previous owner had initiated a repair that would have involved putting a deck across the original structure. He noted that the project had been halted, because the requisite permits had not been drawn to allow work in the area's Shoreland Conservation District. He said the culvert is perhaps one of Lyme's oldest structures. There was concern among members of the Conservation Commission, the Lyme Heritage Commission, and the Lyme Historical Society, as well as the general public, about whether the project might compromise the culvert's structural integrity and historic character. Those concerns ended when David and Barbara Roby stepped in and bought the property with the express purpose of restoring the culvert.

Jim Kennedy presented a proposal for the work. It would include, he said, removing remnants of previous repairs and reinforcing the existing stone walls. That would be done by letting concrete poured for new footings - buried behind the existing walls - fill the stonework's joints. In addition, the damaged granite cover stones would be replaced with similar antique stones, and a new driveway comprised of hardpack over a concrete slab would be installed. Finally, said Jim, fieldstone guardrails/sitting walls would be built. After some discussion, Matt moved, and Sue seconded, that the Commission give the project, as presented, a favorable recommendation. The motion passed on a unanimous rollcall vote. Jim said he is seeking an expedited permit, because the work will take place within the Shoreland Conservation District. That would require Blake's signature.



6. Outreach and Education

- **“Green Up Day” 2021 Report** – Blake said he had not yet done a final tally, but preliminary evidence pointed to a successful event. All the major roads had been covered, and the turnout of volunteers was high, he reported.
- **“Trails Day”. 2021** – Blake observed that “Trails Day” falls on Saturday, June 5th. There was discussion about what project might be taken on and whether to open it to the public. It was noted those decisions could be made outside the context of a meeting.

7. Other Business

- **“Old River Road” Warrant Articles 13 & 14** – The Commission revisited this matter in advance of the approaching May 15 Annual Town Meeting. Blake noted that the Commission is on record favoring the creation of a park/bike path over the now discontinued section of roadway. There was consensus that Article 14 would provide the best avenue for realizing that goal. Members agreed that Blake should post something to that effect on the Lyme Listserv prior to the meeting.

8. Publicity

- Blake will supply an article for the May/June Lyme Community and Church News

9. Adjournment

- On a motion by Sue, seconded by Lin, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm on a unanimous rollcall vote.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Blake Allison, Chair and Secretary *pro tem*

If matters of business warrant it, the next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will take place via ZOOM conference call on Monday, June 7, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m.