



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair and Secretary *pro tem*), Rebecca Hanissian (Alternate), David Lysy (Alternate), Ian Smith, and Matt Stevens

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He named Rebecca and David as full voting members for the meeting.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2019-11-04

- On a motion by Matt, seconded by Ian, the November minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- No Items Submitted

3. Trails and Land Management

- **UVTA 2020 Trail Enhancements Proposal** – Commission members reviewed a proposal from the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) pertaining to work to be done in Big Rock Sanctuary and the Town Forest during the 2020 season. The work would be executed by the UVTA's High School Trails Corps. Under the proposal, two bridge-like structures would be built on Town Forest trails to cross wet areas. In the Big Rock Preserve, a new trailhead would be constructed at NH Route 10 that would involve the installation of twenty "check steps." UVTA Executive Director and Commission member Russell Hirschler estimates the project's total cost will be about \$4900; much of it funded by a grant from the Lyme Foundation. Matt asked what the Commission's share will be. Blake said he did not know but would get the figure from Russ and report back.

4. Project and Application Review

- **14 On the Common** – On Saturday, December 14, members of the Commission (Matt, Blake, Rebecca and David) gathered for a site visit to review a proposed building project at 14 on the Common. They were joined by the project's developer Ray Clark and Certified Wetlands Scientist Jim Kennedy. Ray is proposing to subdivide the existing house and adjacent barn into four and one condos respectively. They would be marketed as "senior" housing.

At issue is replacement of the existing, old septic system and construction of a driveway that would provide access to a proposed four bay garage. Both activities would require work within the 100-foot protective buffer of a wetland that straddles the site's western property line. The new septic's leach field would straddle the buffer's eastern boundary approximately 85 from the wetland. The proposed driveway and garage would intrude about 60 feet into the buffer zone.



The wetland is a kettle-like body that does not drain to any other wetlands or stream complex. Jim Kennedy said the wetland is does not qualify as a vernal pool because it is not deep enough and it lacks a vernal pool's obligate plant and amphibious species.

Regarding the proposed septic system, it is a long-held position of the Commission that any replacement and/or upgrade of an old septic system is a net gain for any nearby waterbody that would justify disturbance within the buffer. The proposed drive and garage complex will add impervious surface to the site, but steps would be implemented to control runoff including construction of a stormwater treatment basin.

Matt asked whether some mitigation could be implemented in the form of native vegetation plantings along the wetland's eastern boundary. It was noted that the project has a possible Phase Two that at a later time would require building within the wetland's southern buffer boundary. It was agreed that the Phase Two proposal should be reviewed separately from the project's first phase.

After more deliberation, the Commission voted unanimously to send a favorable review to the ZBA.

- **Crossroads Academy Swale Repair** – A representative of Crossroads Academy contacted Blake about proposed repairs to an existing stormwater treatment swale that has been damaged by a series of heavy rain events that have occurred over recent years. It also has been reported that there has been bank destabilization of Hewes Brook in the area of the swale. A site plan was reviewed by Commission members. Concerns were raised that not enough information was supplied to make an informed decision. For example, were options considered regarding the swale's location? Blake also noted that a promised draft proposal from the project's engineering firm Pathways Consulting had not been received nor had a copy of the NHDES permit application. Blake said he would contact project engineer Rod Finley to get more information.

5. Outreach and Education

- **No Items Submitted**

6. Other Business

- **Snelling Family 2019 Reimbursement** – On a motion by David, seconded by Matt, the Commission voted unanimously to pay to the Snelling family \$100 in compensation for its maintenance of the Hewes Brook Car Top Boat Launch grounds during the 2019 season.
- **Monitoring Funds Transfer** – On a motion by Matt, seconded by Ian, the Commission voted unanimously to approve transferring to the Conservation Fund, the remaining fund monitoring balances in the Commission's 2019 Annual Town Meeting approved Budget. This would include \$50 from the budget's Monitoring Fund Line 01-461120-822 and \$250 from the budget's Environmental Monitoring Fund Line 01-461120-823). This action would result in a total of \$300 moving to the Conservation Fund's "Easement Monitoring" account.



7. Publicity

- Blake submitted an article earlier in the month in order to comply with the Lyme Community and Church newsletter's filing deadline.

8. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, January 6, 2020 at the Lyme Center Academy Building beginning 7 p.m.