



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

The meeting was conducted in person at the Academy Building and via Zoom in accordance with New Hampshire's "right to know" statutes.

CC Attendance in Person: Blake Allison (Chair and Secretary *pro tem*), Lin Brown, Sue McKenzie (Vice Chair), Meg Sheehan, Matt Stevens and Sara Zahendra (Alternate)

No Commission members or members of the public attended via Zoom.

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He appointed Sara to full voting status for the meeting.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2022-06-06 Meeting

On a motion from Matt, seconded by Sue, the minutes of the June 6 meeting were passed unanimously on a roll call vote. There were no July meeting minutes to review. The Commission did not meet due the conflict of its "first Monday of the month meeting" time with the July 4 Holiday.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Post Pond Eurasian Milfoil Control Program Update** – Sue. Reported that she has two people registered for the diver training session that will be held in Merrimack in the evening of August 26 and during the day on the 27th. She said the cost of the class is \$150/person and that volunteers sent by the Mascoma Lake Assoc receive a \$150 stipend to cover food and housing. After a brief discussion, Matt moved, and Lin seconded, that the Commission match that arrangement, appropriating \$300/person. Of that \$200 is to come from the Education segment of the Commission's budget with the remaining \$400 coming out of the Maintenance Fund. The motion was approved on a unanimous roll call vote.
- **LBWG Update re Summer Projects** – Meg provided a brief "season to date" update on this year's knotweed eradication campaign. She said that three interns had been hired and have been working in the "Big Rock." She noted that a volunteer group from Camp Kingsford already had been down to do work. She said the LBWG team is considering expanding its efforts to other invasives like Japanese honeysuckle. Blake said he hoped the group would turn its attention to other problematic knotweed areas such as the bridge at Hewes Brook and the NH Rt. 10 shoulder just north of the Chaffee. Meg said the LBWG would investigate assigning personnel to those spots.
- **Report on Town Forest Walk with Jeff Smith** – Blake reported that he, Ann and Matt met Jeff at the Beaver Pond trail's Orfordville Road entrance and walked in about a half mile. Jeff presented pros and cons for different levels of management or no management at all. He said that ultimately the choice would be ours and that there were tradeoffs regardless of which course of action was chosen. This caused discussion about different strategies such as "proforestation," leaving the woods undisturbed, or some level of intervention. While on the walk, it also was noted that the forest's white pine colony is not healthy likely due to white pine needle blister rust. Needles were observed to be brown, and the crowns of some trees are thinning. A response will need to be formulated, Jeff said.



3. Trails and Land Management

- **Beaver Pond Trail Bridges Update** – Blake reported that work was progressing concerning the replacement of two footbridge crossings near the confluence of Whipple Brook and a feeder stream at the old Boy Scout camp. He said that on Tuesday, July 19, volunteers from the Upper Valley Trails Alliance's (UVTA) HS Trails Corps removed the first bridge and laid out three new stringers. On July 26 they finished that bridge. Work on replacing the Whipple Brook Crossing began today, August 1, Blake said.
- **Updating Forest Management Plans Discussion** – Commission members resumed discussion regarding updating the current Trout Pond Forest and Town Forest management plans. Concurrent with that was a reactivation of discussion about putting a conservation easement on the Town Forest. All agreed that it needed to be made clear what goals the management plans should foster. It was decided that Blake draw up a charge that each Commission member submit a list of his/her management priorities, i.e., recreation, revenue, forest health, water quality, etc., Blake suggested that responders use an existing management plan as a point of departure for organizing their thoughts. It also was agreed that each person respond regarding whether a conservation easement was desirable or not. The goal is to have these responses available for the Sept. 12 meeting.

4. Project and Application Review

- **2 Hamilton Lane Septic Upgrade** – Plans for a proposed septic system replacement at 2 Hamilton Lane were reviewed. The ZBA is seeking the Commission's evaluation, because all the work would take place within the Shoreland Conservation District associated with the small stream that defines the property's western boundary. Blake noted that it has long been the Conservation Commission's position that the long-term benefit to an environmentally sensitive area, realized by improving a septic system, outweighs the short-term disruption caused by the replacement and installation of the unit. After some discussion, members of the Conservation Commission, on a roll call vote, unanimously agreed to favorably recommend that the project go forward as presented with the stipulation that "best practices" be employed to minimize any impact on the stream.

5. Outreach and Education

- **No Items Submitted**

6. Other Business

- **Appropriations**
 - **Jeff Smith Forest Walk** – On a motion by Sue, seconded by Lin, Commission members voted unanimously on a roll call vote to compensate Jeff Smith for the \$262.50 he charged for his "forest walk" services.
 - **New Signage** – Blake said he had commissioned Canaan resident Ken Milkie to make new signs to be installed at various locations on Commission-managed properties. He said that Ken volunteered to do the work charging only for materials. [Matt moved, seconded by Meg, that the Commission authorize an expense of up to \\$750 to do the work. The motion carried on a unanimous rollcall vote.](#)



- **Dorchester Road Yard Debris** – Sara voiced concerns about conditions on the property and the impact they may be having on the abutting Grant Brook. “Could anything be done to clean the junk up,” she asked? Sue related past efforts by Select Board to intervene, even obtaining a court ordered injunction including a financial penalty for non-compliance. This foundered, she said, because of the defendant’s inability to pay the fine. Nothing has happened since. She observed, that if action was wanted, the Select Board should be petitioned to be proactive.
- **5 Sloan Lane Storage Shed** – Concern was raised that nothing seems to be happening regarding this structure’s status. In August 2021, the Commission sent a letter to the ZBA expressing its opposition to the shed’s placement due to its siting in an environmentally sensitive area and the fact it had not received proper permitting. Blake said he would contact ZBA Administrator David Robbins to get an update.

7. Publicity

- Blake will supply an article for the August/September Lyme Community & Church News

8. Adjournment

- On a motion by Matt, seconded by Sara, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Blake Allison, Chair and Secretary pro tem

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The next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will take place, both in person and via a Zoom teleconference link, at the Lyme Center Academy Building on Monday, September 12, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please note the different date. That change is because the Labor Day holiday conflicts with the Commission’s normal first Monday of the month meeting time.