



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 6, 2023, 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), Lin Brown, Sue McKenzie (*Vice Chair*), Matt Stevens and Sara Zahendra (alternate)

CC Attendance via Zoom: Meg Sheehan

No members of the public attended either in person or via Zoom.

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He appointed Sara to full voting status for the meeting.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2023-01-09 Meeting

On a motion from Sue, seconded by Lin, the minutes of the January 9 meeting were approved as submitted by a unanimous roll call vote.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **No Items Submitted**

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Milfoil Control: 2023 Program Update** – Sue said the meeting took place as scheduled on Tuesday, January 31 at 7:00 pm in the Lyme Town Offices. Ten people attended. Sue reviewed the minutes. She said that perhaps two people would need certification training as weed pullers and asked whether the Commission would help defer expenses associated with the training: registration fee (\$150) and incidentals (\$100). After some discussion, it was agreed the Conservation Commission would provide the requested funding when the volunteer number was set.
- **2023 UVTA Trails Project** – Blake said he had not yet received a cost estimate from the UVTA and tabled the item pending the receipt of that information.
- **Forest Management Plans Update** – Blake recapped his Tuesday, January 24 meeting with Wetlands Scientist Jim Kennedy where Jim walked him through the Hanover Conservation Commission's 2020 Town Forest Management Plan update. A copy of that executive summary accompanies these minutes. Blake said that the plan's inclusion of a detailed "ecological assessment" in combination with the forester's tree inventory was of particular interest since it enabled an understanding of where trees harvesting might impinge on environmentally sensitive areas. Meg stated her opposition to any logging on public land and noted that a group named "Standing Trees" was contesting planned logging projects in the Green Mountain National



Forest Management Plans Update, cont.

Forest, White Mountain National Forest and at Lake Tarleton in Piermont. It was agreed that the strategy of whether to implement a “no cut” as opposed to “selective cut” policy was a matter of considerable debate in the forest management community. Blake said that regardless of how that plays out in the Lyme Town Forest and Trout Pond Forest an ecological assessment of both properties was worthwhile, especially since Lyme’s Natural Resource Inventory has not been updated in 15 years. He asked Meg whether “Standing Trees” might be invited to make a presentation outlining its views, perhaps town wide, later this year. Meg said she would pursue that idea.

4. Project and Application Review

- **No Items Submitted**

5. Outreach and Education

- **Schedule Annual Snowshoe Hike** – It was agreed that conditions permitting, the snowshoe walk should be scheduled for Saturday, February 18. Participants will be asked to meet in the Lyme School parking lot at 1:00 pm. The actual site of the event will be chosen at that time based on ground conditions. The alternate date will be the next day starting at the same time.

6. Other Business

- **Road Salt and Post Pond** – Blake noted that Lin had emailed him voicing concern about the impact of road salt on Post Pond. Blake said that he contacted Sara Steiner, administrator of the DES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP), to find out what information she might have. Sara told him that Post Pond’s sampled chloride levels were historically low
- **Salamander Brigade** – Sara said she would not be able to coordinate this year’s Salamander Brigade due to other commitments. Sara said she would contact Catherine Greenleaf, founder of Lyme’s salamander protection effort, to find out what assistance Catherine might need and will report back. It was noted that March, peak salamander migration time, is fast approaching.
- **Town Forest “Metes and Bounds” Survey** – Lin said that she and Sue had researched and collected the deeds necessary to do a formal survey of the Town Forest’s boundaries. They plan to schedule a survey when ground conditions improve. At the same time, they offered to collect similar information to enable a Trout Pond Forest survey.

7. Publicity

- Blake will supply an article for the February/March Lyme Community & Church News



8. Adjournment

On a motion by Matt, seconded by Sue, Blake adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary".

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tempore*

The next regular meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the Lyme Academy building.