



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 3, 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), Sue MacKenzie (Vice Chair), Lin Brown, Meg Sheehan, Matt Stevens, Jill Niles (appointed full member) and Sara Zahendra (appointed full member),

Public Present: Dr. Rick van de Poll and John Biglow

Members joining by Zoom: None

Public joining by Zoom: None

The Chair (Blake) called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Jill volunteered to be back secretary *pro tempore* in light of Ann's absence.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2023-03-06 Meeting

- On a motion from Sue, seconded by Lin, the minutes of the March 6 meeting were passed unanimously on a roll call vote. (Members who were not present at March meeting abstained.)

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **No Items Submitted**

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Milfoil Control – 2023 Program Update** – Sue said that in May problem spots will be identified. In June, volunteers will be recruited, and the program will get underway in July.
- **2023 UVTA Trails Project Update** – Blake said that Russ is submitting to the Lyme Foundation a grant request to help fund this summer's Chaffee trail project.
- **Town Forest “Metes and Bounds” Survey Update?** – Nothing to report.
- **Scout Camp** – Blake reported that Lyme resident Henry Stokes had contacted him to find out what the status of the Scout Camp is and whether it might be rehabilitated. Blake said that Stokes was unable to attend tonight and tabled the item.



Trails and Land Management, cont.

- **Forest Management Plans Update – Ecological Assessment Proposal** -- Blake suggested jumping to item #3c first, to be considerate of Rick Van de Poll's time ~ All agreed. Rick shared information regarding his background and extensive experience. He has worked with 106 towns and their Conservation Committees, including Hanover. He went over his Ecological Assessment proposal and asked many pertinent questions to gain a better understanding of Lyme and what was cherished here, in terms of our Town Forests. Blake explained that the LCC is responsible for six, Town-owned properties' totaling approximately 1,000 acres as well as 28 LCIP easements on private properties which the LCC monitors annually. It was noted that at least 55% of all Lyme land is conserved. Rick inquired about our priorities regarding trails, wetlands, streams, wildlife, invasives and timber management. "What is most important to us/the Town"? Blake shared that the state stocks Trout Pond with brook trout, annually. Also, that 2014 was the last year any trees were cut in our Town Forests. That was a salvage cut due to blowdowns. Rick explained that he would just provide the science and information to help us make our best decisions, considering both above and below ground (fungi) forest life. He will provide recommendations based on his vast experience and knowledge. He knows much of the local area and would consider special resources in the region that may need protection. Meg mentioned that she would like education and biodiversity to be considered. We all thanked Rick as he concluded his presentation, and then departed.

4. Project and Application Review

- **House Addition at Reservoir Pond Site Visit** – Blake noted that with the roads now drying out we need to get out to Tammy Dowds' property at 645 Reservoir Road for a site visit to consider impacts of the proposed house addition. Blake will send out an e-mail to coordinate this.

5. Outreach and Education

- **Lyme School "Earth Week"** – No follow up by the school regarding our participation.

6. Other Business

- **Salamander Brigade Update** -- Sara reported that the Salamander Brigade will happen soon but is totally weather dependent.
- **Commissioners Reappointment (Matt & Blake)** -- Blake who has served 15 years on the LCC, and Matt who has served an incredible 18 years, both expressed interest in serving yet another 3-year term. There was an extremely enthusiastic, unanimous "YES" vote. They are both such an integral part of the LCC and all felt a deep gratitude for their service, as well as their willingness to continue serving on the Commission. ~ Thank-you!



- **Utility Club Pollinator Garden** -- Lin explained that Alicia Houk had presented the idea of making a Pollinator Garden, perhaps along the proposed Chaffee Trail. A suggestion was made by Jill to consider planting it along the curved section (credit to Ann Flood's idea) of the upcoming ADA trail so it would be visible from more angles. Meg felt this should be coordinated by/with the Upper Valley Trails Alliance and Russell Hirschler. Blake reminded us that Tom Colgan had generously volunteered to till the path that the trail will follow ~ Thank-you, Tom!
- **John Biglow** – Blake belatedly welcomed John who had been with us throughout tonight's meeting. John is a Lyme resident interested in perhaps serving on the LCC.

7. Publicity

- **No Items Submitted**

8. Adjournment

- On a motion by Sue, seconded by Meg, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Niles, Secretary *protempore*

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, May 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.