

**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2014**



PRESENT: Members – Blake Allison, Matt Stevens, Joanna Jaspersohn and Sue McKenzie

Blake called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 3/03/2014

Approval of the minutes was postponed due to a lack of a quorum eligible to vote on them. **Blake** welcomed newly appointed Select Board Rep. **Sue McKenzie** to the Commission.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Upper Valley Land Trust Annual “Big Rock” Easement Assessment – Blake** reported that he and Jason Berard of the UVLT walked Big Rock the morning of Thursday, March 27th. He said that despite the deep snow cover, they were able to get from the Market Street entrance over to Rt. 10 thanks to a trail created by snow-shoers. He said Jason hoped we might make trail work in Big Rock a priority for “Trails Day” in June and that he could provide some UVLT help. It was decided to put the matter under advisement pending review of other possible projects.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Trails Day Project – Big Rock? – See Above**
- **Chaffee/Town Beach Connecting Trail – Joanna and Matt** said they proposed the plan to the Recreation Commission and received positive feedback. There was some discussion about siting a bridge and what kind of structure might be built. Further action will be on hold until conditions improve enough to allow access to assess options.
- **Chaffee Wildlife Observation Blind – Matt** reminded Commissioners about earlier discussions regarding construction of such a structure and suggested a couple of different sites where it might be placed. Will the property’s easement allow it?
- **Milfoil Control Donation? – Blake** surmised, based on previous discussions, that the Commission was disposed to make a contribution from the Conservation Fund to help the Town pay some of the cost of this year’s planned herbicide treatment. There was agreement it was a good idea. Blake said he was inquiring with the NH Association of Conservation Commissions to find out whether that kind of use of the Fund would be allowed under current regulations. **Matt** said his reading of the relevant RSAs suggested it was. It was decided to defer action until more Commission members could weigh in.
- **Hewes Brook Boat Launch Clean Up – Sue** said the Select Board had received some complaints about trash in and around the boat launch area and asked whether a team could be deployed there on “Green Up Day.” She offered to organize and lead it. **Joanna** said she would help.

Trails and Land Management, cont.

- **River Rd. Invasives Near Hanover Line** – Sue said plans are going ahead to rebuild a half-mile of River Rd. starting at the Hanover line and going north. She said preliminary work would require removal of terrestrial invasive species in order to prevent their spread by construction activity. She asked whether the Conservation Commission would help with the work to reduce costs. **Joanna** said she would investigate to see what kind of resources might be available to help with the work.

4. Project and Application Review

- **No items Submitted**

5. Outreach and Education

- **Lyme School Playground Renovation** – Discussion was deferred due to **Heather's** absence.
- **Clay Brook to Orfordville Rd. Hike with UVLT & Green Mountain Club** – **Blake** said that Saturday, July 12 had been set as the date for this cooperatively planned outing. He said more details would be forthcoming as the date came closer.
- **"Green Up Day" on Saturday, May 3** -- **Blake** said he would be getting the word out by next week soliciting new volunteers and contacting last year's participants through direct mail in order to enlist their aid.

6. Other Business

- **Firewood Assistance Program Update** – **Blake** brought Sue up to speed on the proposal. She suggested coordinating efforts with "Those Guys" and Dan Freihofer of the Alan Hewitt Memorial Program. She also noted that DPW's dangerous tree removal program could be a source for wood. Blake said he would pursue those suggestions.
- **Exploring New Social Media Options** – **Joanna** opened a discussion about how the Commission could reach a wider audience by using different kinds of interactive social media like Facebook and Twitter. She said she had set up a Facebook page and welcomed content. There was general agreement this strategy should be pursued.

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News** – **Blake** said he would submit something either on "Green Up Day" or a reminder that work in wetland and stream buffers likely requires NH Department of Environmental Services permitting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*