

**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2013**



PRESENT: Members – Blake Allison, Matt Stevens, Russ Hirschler, Tom Colgan, Heather Toulmin, Richard Vidal, Lee Larson (Alternate) and John Peterson (Alternate). **Blake** appointed Lee Larson and James Graham to full voting member replacing **Joanna Jaspersohn** (absent) and **Richard Vidal** (not present when the meeting began).

Chair **Blake Allison** called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 5/6/13

- On a motion by **Tom**, seconded by **Russ**, the 5/6/13 minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Long Term Action Plan Follow Up/Conservation Fund Priorities** – There was a brief update on where this project stood regarding the intention of creating a **Long Term Action Plan** that ultimately will be put on the Commission's web page. **Matt** said the statement has been drawn up but is not ready yet for posting.
- **Bliss Lane Parcel Update** – **Blake** said he had contacted Dina Cutting about getting the property owner's permission to visit the site but has not heard anything about getting access.
- **Nancy Wray Easement** – **Lee** raised this matter explaining to commissioners that he had been contacted by the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) a few days after the May meeting about whether the Commission had any interest in seeing a conservation easement put on Wray's one acre lot that is situated at the south corner of N. Thetford Rd. and NH Rt. 10. The Commission's interest was conveyed to the UVLT, as that easement when added to existing easements would put all of Clay Brook and adjacent lands under protection **south of North Thetford Road**. Further word from UVLT about its next move is being awaited.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Lyme Town Forest** – It was asked whether there had been further word from Jeff Smith regarding his work on the Town Forest Management Plan revision. **Blake** said he had not been in touch with Jeff who had indicated that a cd for electronic distribution of a draft report would be available before the June meeting. Blake said he would contact Jeff for an update.
- **"Trails Day" Report** – **Blake** said that four volunteers and six commissioners work in the Chaffee for about 90 minutes on Saturday, June 1st as the commission's "Trails Day" project. He said that ten segments of boardwalk had been replaced including new puncheon supports. Blake noted that this work meant that all boardwalks in the Sanctuary had been completely replaced which means further boardwalk work likely would not be necessary for several years.

- **Big Rock Trail Damage Update – Matt** said the boardwalk had been repaired on Saturday, **May** 18th at the same time invasive control work was being done.
- **Big Rock Invasives Control – Heather** said she was joined by Lee, James and Tom who did work that involved hand pulling garlic mustard and honeysuckle removal. Round Up was applied to multi-flora rose and Japanese knotweed. A return inspection showed there was wilting. Lee reported additional trail work was completed that morning and no further work is needed. James offered to walk the trail and update the commission on the invasives and boardwalk.
- **Clay Brook Beaver Pipe Removal – Blake** noted that this work needed to be completed but that current high water levels following Mays's end of month heavy rains precluded doing it now.
- **Trout Pond Timber Harvest – Lee** said that even though winter is six months away it was not too early to begin planning the previously planned timber harvest noting that considerable lead-time is needed. **Blake** said he would contact management plan creator Ben Hudson to initiate a discussion.
- **Big Rock Invasives Assessment – Heather** said Grafton County Forester Dave Falkenham was available on July 29th to do a terrestrial invasives survey in the Big Rock Sanctuary.

4. Project and Application Review

- **No Items Were Submitted.**

5. Outreach and Education

- **Lyme Hill Conservation Area Bird Survey Report – Blake** reported that four people joined him on Thursday morning, May 30th for the first bird walk of a series that will enumerate the area's bird population. He said 29 species were identified including warblers, vireos and scarlet tanagers. He said the next walk would occur in late June.

6. Other Business

- **Green Up Day -- Blake** said he had earlier in the day posted to the Lyme-listserv results of this year's "Green Up Day." He said 47 bags of trash and recyclables were collected by twenty "units (either an individual or group of people working together)" and that 23 miles of road were covered.
- **Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary and July 4th Overflow – Russ** brought up the need to conduct a site assessment to see where parking would be allowed during the town's fireworks display on Saturday, July 6th, and Matt agreed to do one. **Richard** said he would do the mowing but would have to get it completed before June 15th. Richard said he would provide the stakes for delineating the parking area. **John** asked the history of the fireworks. **Blake** expressed concern over news that the across the street parking would not be available which meant the Chaffee might no longer be the option of last resort as had been agreed to by the Commission. **James** asked that Shaun O'Keefe be

alerted as to the decision. **Lee** stated that if there were a lot of rain the Chaffee would not be available.

- **Post Pond Rain Gauge – Post Pond Water Gauge – Blake** reported he had an email from Dina regarding the water gage. Blake reported the gauge is in place. Lee will contact Jimmy Jenks get the grade level set. Matt will reset the stake with James' and Blake's help Wednesday June 5th.
- **July Meeting --- Blake** said that if there were no objections, July's meeting would take place as scheduled on July 1st.
- **Milfoil Update?** – It was asked whether there were any new developments being reported by the Eurasian Milfoil Committee regarding Post Pond's infestation. Blake said he did not know of any but that he would contact committee chair Alan Newton and find out.

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News – Heather** said she would submit notes on May's invasives control work in the "Big Rock" preserve.

On a motion by **James**, seconded by **Tom**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next scheduled Conservation Commission meeting is 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 1st at the Lyme Academy building.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Toulmin, Secretary pro tem and Blake Allison Secretary emeritus