

**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2013**



PRESENT: Members – Blake Allison, Russ Hirschler, Matt Stevens, Tom Colgan, Heather Toulmin, Joanna Laro, Lee Larson (Alternate), James Graham (Alternate) and John Peterson (Alternate).

PUBLIC: Stina Kohnke and Dr. Joseph Rosen

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

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 6/3/13

- On a motion by **Tom**, seconded by **Russ**, the 6/3/13 minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Bliss Lane Parcel Update – Blake** said he had exchanged e-mails with Dina regarding access for a site, but she had not heard back from the property owner.
- **Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) Annual Trout Pond Monitoring – Blake** said he had received notice from the UVLT that the inspection was to take place on Tuesday, July 9th and that the UVLT had invited interested Commission members to attend.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Lyme Town Forest – Blake** confirmed that the Commission had received the draft report and accompanying map he had distributed the previous week via e-mail. It was agreed to postpone discussion of the document until August to give people sufficient time to study it.
- **Big Rock Trail Damage Update – Matt** said water runoff from Rt. 10 was causing erosion at the adjacent trailhead. It was agreed the drainage channel needs to be moved and that work should be scheduled for the end of July. Russ offered to lend tools from the Upper Valley Trails Alliance.
- **Big Rock Invasives Control – Heather** reported that the herbicide applied in June seemed to be having the desired impact on the targeted terrestrial invasives. She said the situation would require continued monitoring. She reminded everyone that Grafton County Forester Dave Falkenham would be at the Big Rock on July 29th to do a terrestrial invasives survey.
- **Clay Brook Beaver Pipe Removal – Blake** said that an earlier inspection of the pipes showed the water level had dropped enough to almost expose the cages, but he doubted that was the case now in light of recent heavy rain. He said he would do another assessment in mid-July.
- **Trout Pond Timber Harvest – Blake** said he had been in touch with Ben Hudson who agreed a winter timber harvest would be worthwhile. He said Ben would attend the August meeting to discuss how to proceed.

4. Project and Application Review

- **Stina Kohnke and Dr. Joseph Rosen: 315 River Rd. Shoreline Protection Permit Application** – The Kohnke's presented plans for replacing their current dwelling on River Rd. with a new, slightly larger structure. All work would take place within the shoreline setback zone. Stina said she had applied for an exemption with the NH DES. Blake said Planning and Zoning Admin. Dave Robbins had requested that the Conservation Commission do a site visit and that one could be scheduled for next week.
- **N. River Rd. "After the Fact" Wetlands Permit Application** – **Blake** reported that Dave Robbins had informed him that the Town had received "after the fact" approval from NH DES for work it did on N. River Rd. last spring to stabilize a 20 linear foot section of river bank that had collapsed opposite Berway Farm (560 N. River Road).

5. Outreach and Education

- **Lyme Hill Conservation Area Bird Survey Report** – **Blake** said the June 28th walk had been postponed due to inclement weather.
- **Long Term Action Plan Follow Up/Conservation Fund Priorities** – **Matt** said he submitted a statement to Dave Robbins for posting on the Commission's web page. It can be viewed, he said, by clicking on the link "Land Conservation Criteria."

6. Other Business

- **Conservation Fund Treasurer's Report** – **Blake** passed out copies of the report. It showed the fund's balance ending May 31st, 2013 to be \$194,105.50.an increase of \$540.71 from the end of 2012; \$40.71 that came from earned interest and \$500.00 from a private donation. **Lee** noted that the money in the annual budget under "Monitoring Fund" needed to be moved to the Conservation Fund "Easement Monitoring Fund" before year end.
- **Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary and Independence Day Observance Parking Overflow** – There was discussion regarding the conditions under which access to The Chaffee for overflow parking might be denied. There was agreement parking should not be allowed if forecasted rains rendered the ground vulnerable to damage by cars. **Blake** said he would do an assessment the morning of the observance to determine the ground's condition and would notify the Independence Day Committee about whether The Chaffee would be available. He said he would let them know in advance of his intention to make the review.
- **Post Pond Water Gauge** – **Blake** reported that he and Lee reset the rain gauge. He noted he had authorized Lee to buy a new gauge (\$41.00), because it was thought that the old one had been damaged. This proved not to be the case. It was agreed to keep the new one for future use.

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News** – **Blake** said he would submit an article highlighting The Chaffee Sanctuary.

AS APPROVED 2013-08-05

On a motion by **Russ**, seconded by **James**, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next scheduled Conservation Commission meeting is 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5th at the Lyme Center Academy building.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Allison, Secretary *emeritus*