

AS APPROVED

**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2013**



PRESENT: Members – Blake Allison, Matt Stevens, Heather Toulmin, Lee Larson (Alternate), James Graham (Alternate) and John Peterson (Alternate).

PUBLIC: Ben Hudson, Hudson Forestry and Jeff Smith, Butternut Hollow Forestry

Chair **Blake Allison** called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He appointed Lee, James and John as full voting members for the evening's meeting.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 7/1/13

- On a motion by **James**, seconded by **Heather**, the 7/1/13 minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **No Items Submitted**

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Lyme Town Forest** – **Jeff Smith** was present to discuss his draft of the Town Forest Management Plan Revision proposal. He laid out a recommended cutting program and timetable for its execution. Full implementation of the plan would occur over the next two-to-three years. After some discussion, the Commission unanimously approved the draft. Jeff said he would finalize it and send two copies to the Commission. On a motion by Heather, seconded by James, the Commission unanimously approved payment of \$6,752.00 to Jeff for his work preparing and finalizing the plan.
- **Trout Pond Timber Harvest** – **Ben Hudson** appeared before the Commission to discuss a planned timber harvest in Trout Pond Forest and to lay out a timetable for the work. He suggested setting aside the woods northeast of the wetland area as a reserve due to access issues. He proposed starting in the southeast corner below the wetland doing a series of patch cuts to create habitat for wildlife and bird species. There was discussion about the best route for a logging road to get the timber out. Ben characterized the work as a breakeven project with revenue from the harvested timber's sale funding the work and a proposed hiking trail loop that would be added in the proposed reserve area. Concerns were raised about the trail's route. After some discussion it was agreed that Ben would take a logger out to flag the proposed access trail. Members of the Commission then would go inspect it before signing off.
- **Big Rock Update** – **Heather** said water runoff from Rt. 10 continued to cause erosion at the adjacent trailhead and that remedial work was needed. She also noted there was a pile of debris and trash that needed removal. **Blake** said he would check with Dina about arranging to have it processed by the transfer station.

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- **Chaffee and Big Rock Terrestrial Invasives Assessment – Heather** reported on the July 29 visit of Grafton County Forester Dave Falkenham that undertook a terrestrial invasive assessment of the Chaffee and Big Rock sanctuaries. She said that according to Dave, the Chaffee had a serious problem with glossy buckthorn that was not worth trying to control at this point in time. He also noted a significant presence of Japanese honeysuckle. Heather said Dave thought the outlook at the Big Rock was more positive. He observed that a diverse community of native plant species was present and thought it would be worth the effort to try to control, if not eradicate, invasive species colonies. In this vein Heather reported that the work done in early July had met with some success, The sprayed multiflora rose had mostly died back, and the Japanese knotweed that had treated had been reduced but new sprouts were coming up. The Commission agreed to take this matter up again at a future meeting and to schedule additional treatment work. Heather said Dave recommended bringing in Matt Tarr, a UNH biologist and invasives specialist, to undertake another walk in August.

4. Project and Application Review

- **No Items Submitted**

5. Outreach and Education

- **Lyme Hill Conservation Area Bird Survey Report – Blake** reported that a second census was conducted on Friday, July 19th. Five people participated, identifying 21 species. He said misty conditions and the darkness created by the dense leaf canopy caused most birds to be identified aurally. A third walk will be scheduled for mid-August.

6. Other Business

- **Water Quality Monitoring – Lee** said the annual water quality monitoring of Post and Reservoir ponds had been conducted by the NH Volunteer Lake Assessment Program at the end of July as scheduled. Final results will be available later in the year, he said, but preliminary results were positive.

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News – Heather** said she would submit an article focusing on terrestrial invasives with a special focus on control work in the Big Rock Sanctuary

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

Please note: Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the next scheduled Conservation Commission meeting will be on Monday, September 9th beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Lyme Center Academy building.

Respectfully submitted,

AS APPROVED

Blake Allison, Secretary *emeritus*