

**Lyme Conservation Commission
Minutes
February 1, 2016**



Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Lee Larson (Alternate), MaryBeth Kiefer (Alternate), James Munroe, Meg Sheehan (Alternate), Ian Smith (Alternate), Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.) and Matt Stevens

Blake called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and appointed MaryBeth, Meg and Ian as regular voting members for the evening.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2016-01-04

- The January meeting minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Assessing and Prioritizing Potential Land for Conservation** – Lee noted that the State's newly released Wildlife Action Plan has maps that town-by-town identify "Highest Ranked Habitat by Ecological Condition" and "Wildlife Habitat Land Cover." They also used the Town's tax map as a basis for identifying where the land is, he said. Further, the maps show land already conserved or in the public domain. Lee suggested these maps could be used to create a list of non-conserved lands prioritized by their habitat value. Lee and Ian agreed to pursue the matter using available mapping tools. The matter will be taken up again at the March meeting.
- **Logging and Protecting Habitat** – Blake said Tom had contacted him about a logging operation that was taking place in the Town's southeast corner. Tom noted that some of the area was marked as "deer yard" which means that under the zoning ordinance, certain best practices should be followed to avoid damaging the characteristics that make it suitable deer yard habitat. Tom said the logging operation had removed too many trees. Jay noted that the Select Board was aware of the issue and had requested the Grafton County Forester to inspect the site. Jay also said that enforcement was a state issue. The Town can note a deer yard's presence in an area, but that is the extent of the Town's involvement. It was also noted that the map identifying where deer yards are located in town was over 15 years old and that deer move around once a given area's food value is diminished by grazing or the low understory the favor disappears as the trees grow.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Chaffee Wildlife Viewing Blind Update** – Blake reported that tarpaper had been put down on the roof and that cedar shingles would be used on top of it. He noted that an interior bench would be added as well as a shelf just below the viewing opening where users could place equipment and guides, etc., There is no timetable for doing that work.
- **Crossroads Academy Trails Work Partnership** – Blake said Crossroads Academy Middle School teacher Steve Glazer had contacted him about planning a trails project involving one of his classes. Blake said Steve and he agreed to revisit it in the spring.

4. Project and Application Review

- **No Items Submitted.**

5. Outreach and Education

- **Annual Snow Shoe Outing** -- It was decided to schedule the event for Sunday, February 21 beginning at 1:00 p.m. Attendees are to meet at the Park 'Ride lot. If the weather does not cooperate, an attempt will be made to reschedule.
- **Wildlife Action Plan Workshop in April – Meg** reminded Commission members that NH Fish and Game was going to conduct workshops in conjunction with its newly released Wildlife Action Plan. She said one is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13 beginning at 6:00 at W. Lebanon's Kilton Public Library.
- **Host Early Spring Town Forest Nature Walk – Meg** raised the possibility of scheduling a Commission sponsored nature walk. It was agreed an early spring visit to a vernal pool would be interesting. Several names were proposed for a walk leader. She agreed to help find someone to head the event. It was agreed to revisit the matter in March when conditions for going into the woods are better known.

6. Other Business

- **No Items Submitted.**

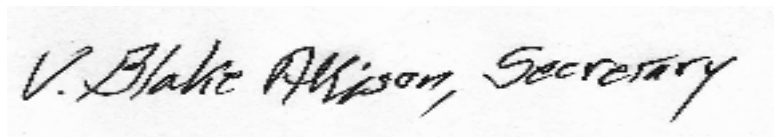
7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item – Blake** said he would publicize the snow shoe walk.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 7 beginning 7:00 p.m. at the Lyme Center Academy Building.