

**Lyme Conservation Commission
Minutes
March 7, 2016**



Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Ton Colgan, Lee Larson (Alternate), James Monroe, Meg Sheehan (Alternate), Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.) and Ian Smith (Alternate)

Blake appointed Lee, Meg and Ian to "Full Voting Member" status for the meeting.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2016-02-01

- On a motion by **Tom**, seconded by **James**, the February minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Assessing and Prioritizing Land for Possible Conservation** – **Lee** asked David Robbins to make an enlarged version of the maps published by NH Fish & Game in conjunction with its recently released "Wildlife Action Plan." He had David overlay the Town tax map that shows conserved property. Members in attendance perused the map for high value wildlife habitat parcels that were not conserved and discussed what strategy might be employed to get the owner(s) to put a conservation easement on them.
- **Annual Town Meeting Article 3 re Wetlands Conservation District** – **Blake** observed that the article's intent was to give the Wetlands Conservation District zoning ordinance an "objective." As the Town Report noted *"This amendment was requested by the Lyme Zoning Board of Adjustment as the Wetlands Conservation District was the only Conservation District that did not have a stated objective."*

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Signage and Maps** – **Blake** said recent trail expansion and the addition of the wildlife viewing blind at the Chaffee would require updating signage and maps for the sanctuary. **Lee** said he had done an update after the footbridge was built and that he would take care of the next revision too. Blake also noted that several signs there needed to be replaced too.
- **Invasive Terrestrial Species Action Plan** – **Meg** raised the need for the Commission to develop a plan that would prioritize which "invasives" eradication or control projects should be pursued in the months ahead. It was noted that Japanese knotweed was a growing threat in the Hewes Brook Car Top Boat Launch area. There was discussion about how best to combat its spread and agreement an effort should be made beginning in May when new growth begins to emerge.

4. Project and Application Review

- **No Items Submitted.**

5. Outreach and Education

- **Action Plan Seminar Reminder – Blake** reminded attendees that Fish & Game's local Wildlife Action Plan Workshop will be on Wednesday, April 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at W. Lebanon's Kilton Public Library.
- **UVLT's Annual Conservation Commission Meeting – Blake** announced that the Upper Valley Land Trust's annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction.
- **Town Forest Hike Scheduling** – Discussion was opened regarding where and when the hike might be held. It was agreed that a vernal pool oriented outing would be interesting. Ground conditions and amphibian activity would determine the date. The issue of having an amphibian specialist lead the walk was raised, and it was agreed finding such a person should be researched.

6. Other Business

- **Town Meeting Article re Proposed Little Common Parking Area – Blake** expressed concern about the proposed leasing to the school of a strip of land at The Little Town Common's southern edge to create extra parking. He noted the heightened risk this would pose to the town's Grafton County champion basswood tree. Lee also noted that a maple in that strip would be cut down if the parking proposal passed. He said that tree was planted with considerable ceremony in the late 80s as part of a town Arbor Day observance. After some discussion it was agreed the Conservation Commission should take a public stance opposing the article.
- **Article 12 re Purchase of Tank and Sprayer Unit – Lee** raised the issue of this purchase and the threat to vegetation and wildlife that spraying the roads with magnesium or calcium chloride might pose. **Jay** presented information regarding the pros and cons of applying salt and related substances to the roads during winter to minimize icing and in warmer months to keep dust down. The Commission took no formal position on the article.
- **Terms Expiring – Blake** noted that the terms of four Commissioners would expire after Tuesday's Annual Town Meeting. They included Tom Colgan, Joanna Jaspersen, Lee Larson and Meg Sheehan. He asked that each person make known to him his/her intention regarding whether they would seek appointment to a new three-year term. Blake thanked Tom, Lee and Meg for services and expressed hope they would continue to do so.

7. Publicity

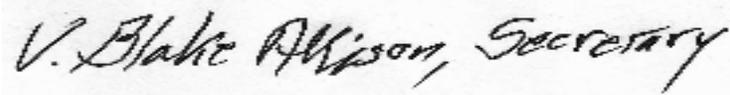
- **Lyme Community and Church News – Meg** suggested posting an item regarding the upcoming "Wildlife Action Plan Workshop."

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

AS APPROVED 2016-04-04

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4 beginning 7:00 p.m. at the Lyme Center Academy Building.