



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Minutes
Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

Present: Blake Allison(chair), Russ Hirschler (vice-chair), Matt Stevens (secretary), Tom Colgan, James Munroe, Meg Sheehan, C. Jay Smith (selectboard rep.), Lee Larson (alternate).

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2017-03-06

On motion from R. Hirschler and second from T. Colgan the minutes were approved. Two members abstained due to absence from the March 3 meeting.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **No Items Submitted**

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Holt's Ledge Rare Plant Community Survey Pricing**

Chair Allison and M. Stevens provided a correction to Alice Shori's estimate for work on a botanical review at Holt's Ledge, which is roughly \$800 rather than the \$400 originally announced. On motion from T. Colgan and seconded by J. Munroe, the commission unanimously voted to provide up to \$900 for the project to come from the Maintenance and Management budget.

4. Project and Application Review

- **Allen Reconstruction at One Pinnacle Road**

The Allen house, which was badly damaged by fire last fall, will be replaced on-site. Like its predecessor the new building will be within both the road and wetland setbacks. They will seek a special exception from the ZBA to re-orient the footprint and rebuild. The new orientation provides greater separation from both Rte 10 and the stream to the north. L. Larson points out that the site is long-disturbed, composed of lawn and that no trees will be removed. Further discussion revealed there is a UVLT easement on much of the parcel from which the house lot is likely excluded and the potential presence of locally important agricultural soils. Chair Allison will provide a letter to the ZBA stating that the Commission anticipates no significant impacts and requesting that Best Management Practices for construction be exercised.



5. Outreach and Education

- **“Green Up Day” 2017-05-06**

Green Up Day will take place on Saturday, May 6 in partnership with Lyme Community Cares. B. Allison expressed his hope that it will be as successful as the 2016 event. R. Hirschler suggests that the Girl Scouts group be contacted to avoid potential overlap in coverage.

- **Pollinator Garden Project**

Discussion included potential cooperative effort with the Hanover Conservancy’s pollinator restoration efforts by establishing pollinator garden(s) in Lyme, possibly at the Lyme School and/or in the Chaffee Sanctuary. T. Colgan offered to help in site preparation at a location between the Trout Brook footbridge and the wildlife viewing blind. M. Sheehan suggested a location on school grounds to have a site in town. M. Stevens will contact school faculty members to plan a project. R. Hirschler can provide some wildflower seed mix currently stored at Upper Valley Trails Alliance office.

- **Vernal Pool Walk in 2017-04-22 Update**

Event is currently planned for April 22, to be led by Jim Kennedy. J. Munroe suggested leaving April 29 as a possible date to accommodate late arrival of warmer weather and spring conditions.

6. Other Business

- **Conservation Fund Donation(s)**

Discussion included the Commission donating money from the Conservation Fund to cover remaining costs of Eurasian Watermilfoil treatment in Post Pond in 2017. On a motion from T. Colgan, seconded by R. Hirschler, the Commission voted to donate \$9,587 to the project pending the result of a public hearing on the matter. R. Hirschler suggested that the donation be publicized on the Commission’s Facebook page and in the Church and Community Newsletter. M. Sheehan suggested including the Commission’s policy in the Public Hearing announcement.

- **Review Conservation Fund Donation Guidelines**

The Commission’s established policy is that up to 5% of the Conservation Fund can be appropriated (by vote of the Commission) for conservation-related town projects so long as the Fund balance remains at or above \$150,000.

- **UFLT Annual Con Com Meeting Report**

M. Sheehan and J. Munroe reported that attendees were introduced to web-based citizen science platforms eBird and iNaturalist. They said forum provided good networking opportunities.



Other Business, cont.

- **Note of Appreciation for UVTA's John Taylor**

B. Allison suggested the Commission provide formal recognition to John Taylor (Upper Valley Trails Alliance) via letter, resolution or card for his substantial contributions to trails projects and promoting access to and use of public open spaces in Lyme. B. Allison and M. Stevens will draft a resolution for review by the Commission before presentation to Mr. Taylor.

- **Expiring Commission Member Terms**

B. Allison reported that two members' (Allison, Stevens) terms expired this past March and that both have been submitted to the Select Board for re-appointment for another term.

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item**

B. Allison will provide item(s) for publication in the next issue.

8. Adjournment

Chair Allison adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew Stevens".

Matthew Stevens, Secretary

The next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will be held at the Lyme Center Academy building on Monday May 1, 2017 at 7 p.m.