



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

Present: Russell Hirschler (Vice-Chair), C. Jay Smith (Select Board Representative), Meg Sheehan, Tom Colgan and Lee Larson (Alternate)

Public: John Gartner

Vice Chair Hirschler called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

L. Larson was appointed as voting member for the meeting on a motion T. Colgan and second by M. Sheehan.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 8/7/2017

On motion from L. Larson, second from M. Sheehan minutes from August 8 meeting were approved without further revision. R. Hirschler abstained due to absence from that meeting.

2. Other Business

- **John Gartner – Holt's Ledge and Hydrology**

The commission suggested moving other business up in the agenda to accommodate our public guest, John Gartner. Mr. Gartner is a post doc at UMASS Amherst in hydrology and wanted to offer his comments on past flood considerations to combat the next flood. Science suggests big floods are beneficial for stream ecosystems by introducing woody debris as an example. Suggests looking at upsizing culverts when possible. C. Jay Smith shared that increasing culvert size by 50% is OK under DES permit by notification but any larger requires DES permits with engineer reports. It was suggested that Mr. Gartner bring this information to the Select Board again when they are not dealing with roads and culverts in a crisis mode.

Mr. Gartner also asked about future access to the Holt's Ledge climbing area once the public meeting has occurred at the end of October and offered is assistance in trail planning at that time.

3. Land Protection and Easements

- **No Items Submitted**

4. Trails and Land Management

- **Holt's Ledge Rare Plant Community Survey Update** – The Final report of the rare plant survey at Holt's Ledge is scheduled to be issued by the end of October.
- **Schedule Chaffee Trail and Bridge Work** – The cost estimate to relocate the footbridge across Trout Brook between the Chase beach area and Chaffee is estimated to cost \$500 and



the work will be done by Morty Bailey. The work will be done this fall. Please see motion below about related expenses of this project. It was reported that other work to re-set the bog bridges at Chaffee was completed. The bog bridges will be due for replacement in the coming year.

- **Town Forest Trail Clearing** – It was reported previously that there are two blowdowns in the Town Forest near the Waterfall Trail. At this point in time, none of the present commissioners were available to remove the blowdowns. The commissioners will stay in touch to find a time to go and do the work and until that time, this will remain an ongoing agenda item.
- **Trout Pond Trail Access Road Improvements** – L. Larson has arranged for John O'Brien to do the suggested grading and crowning of the Class 6 access road to the Trout Pond Trailhead. The cost would be \$500 for the work. It was noted that the town is not allowed to spend tax dollars on Class 6 roads unless they are a dedicated emergency road, so permission from the Selectboard is required before any work can occur. Please see motion below about related to expenses of this project.
 - L. Larson moved and a second from M. Sheehan that the Conservation Commission is authorized to spend any remaining funds in the Maintenance account and then supplement with up to \$1,000 from the Conservation Fund to re-set the bridge across Trout Brook and repair the road to Trout Pond Forest. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Project and Application Review

- **No Items Submitted**

6. Outreach and Education

- **Lyme School Outdoor Classroom Review** – The Commission received a year-end report from Trisha Gautreau about the forest classroom in the Big Rock Preserve and invited the commissioners to visit the site on any Friday. None of the commissioners thought it absolutely necessary to visit but M. Sheehan will try to visit the site on Friday, 9/15.

7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item** – B. Allison will prepare a piece about the Holt's Ledge botanical survey for submission.

8. Adjournment

- On a motion from T. Colgan, second by L. Larson, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Hirschler and Tom Colgan

The next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will be held at the Lyme Center Academy building on Monday, October 2, 2017 beginning at 7 p.m. The date is moved due to Labor Day.