



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Tom Colgan (Secretary *pro tem*), Rebecca Hanissian (Alternate), David Lysy (Alternate), Ian Smith, Meg Sheehan and Matt Stevens

Public: Jaxon Morgan

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He named Rebecca and David as full voting members for the meeting.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2019-09-09 and 2019-10-0

- On a motion by Matt, seconded by Rebecca, the 2019-09-09 & 2019-10-07 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **No Items Submitted**

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Lyme Biodiversity Group Committee (LBGC) Update** – Meg and Jaxon Morgan gave an end of season wrap up on the Big Rock Japanese knotweed removal project. They said more than 100 volunteer days were logged citing the significant and helpful contributions of teams from Hypertherm and Community College of Vermont among others. About 80% of the knotweed stands along Grant Brook had been cut, they said. Two interns had been hired for the summer but ended up not putting in as many hours as hoped due to conflicting obligations. Meg and Jaxon expressed gratitude to Northern Woodlands for letting the LBGC use its conference room and providing some storage space for the group's tools.

There was a general discussion regarding whether the LBGC should target other areas in addition to returning to Big Rock. Thought might also be given to targeting other invasives like bittersweet or glossy buckthorn.

4. Project and Application Review

- **Culvert Replacement Update** – Blake said he had spoken to Town Road Agent Steve Williams in early October regarding the status of the proposed culvert replacement on Grafton Turnpike near the Hanover/Lyme boundary (see 2019-05-06 minutes). The Conservation Commission had offered to help fund the project using money from the Conservation Fund. Steve said that equipment problems and unexpected repair projects had caused him to postpone the work until 2020.



5. Outreach and Education

- **Lyme School Request – Aquarium Chiller Update.** – Rebecca said Lyme School science teacher Rick Pendleton had secured a grant to partially fund a chiller purchase and would come to the November 4 meeting to make a presentation (see 2019-09-09 Minutes).

6. Other Business

- **2020 Town Budget Request** – After a short discussion, Tom moved and Meg and Meg seconded a motion that the 2020 budget request match that which was approved by Annual Town Meeting for 2019. The motion carried unanimously.
- **Big Rock Rt. 10 Trailhead** – Blake proposed that the trailhead be moved about ten feet to the left of the present one that was closed due to runoff damage. He said there is a gentle descent from the grassy area into the woods and that a loop could connect to the existing trail where it is at brook level at the bottom of the existing trailhead. He urged Commissioners to assess the site for themselves. It was noted that the washed-out trail segment should be filled. Blake said he would contact the Select Board about getting a load of stone for fill.
- **Freda Swan Commemoration on Sunday, November 3** – Blake reported that the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) and Society for Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) intend to honor the conservation work of Lyme resident Freda Swan by installing a plaque in her memory at the intersection of Breck Hill and River Roads. Freda spearheaded a neighborhood wide effort to conserve land along Breck Hill Road.
- Blake said the Conservation Commission has been included as a co-sponsor. He said the event is to take place beginning 1:00 p.m. and that refreshments would be served afterwards. He said the UVLT asked whether the Commission would help fund the refreshments purchase. Matt moved, and Meg seconded, that the Commission authorize the expense of up to \$150 to fund a refreshments purchase. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Publicity

- Blake submitted a Community & Church news article already, because the deadline was Monday, October 14.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

These minutes were recorded by Tom Colgan with a few minor edits by Commission Chair Blake Allison.

The next regular meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, November 4, 2019 beginning 7:00 p.m. in the Lyme Center Academy Building.