



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair and Secretary *pro tem*), Rebecca Hanissian (Alternate), Ian Smith, and Matt Stevens

Public: Skip Pendleton/Lyme School

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

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2019-10-21

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **No Items Submitted**

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Big Rock Trailhead Restoration Update** – Blake reported that the Highway Department’s repair had survived the Thursday evening/Friday morning wind and rain event. He noted that the grade seemed steeper and that moving the trailhead remains something to consider. Matt opined that the grade at that site is generally steep. Would steps solve the problem? What would that involve in terms of material and excavation?
- **Town Forest Trail Repairs** – Following up on a pre-“Trails Day” survey, Blake said Russ and he would go to the Town Forest at 10:00 a.m on Wednesday, the 6th to assess a couple of Town Forest trail sites in need of maintenance (2019-06-03 CC Minutes – As Approved 2019-07-01). On the Beaver Pond Trail a rotted tread segments crossing needs to replace. Also to be examined was a trestle/bridge crossing of the outflow from the old beaver dam on the Western Town Forest Trail. The water flow has rendered the crossing unsafe, Blake said. Matt suggested consideration be given to adapting a crossing appropriate to the kind of trail use we want to encourage. He said he would try to attend. Rebecca also expressed an interest in participating. On a somewhat related matter, Blake said that Bob Lee had told him that the Mud Turtle Pond Road restoration had been completed as far as the Town log landing per an earlier agreement (see 2019-11-05 CC Minutes – As Approved 2018-12-03).

4. Project and Application Review

- **No Items Submitted**



5. Outreach and Education

- **Lyme School Request – Aquarium Chiller Update.** – Lyme School science teacher Skip Pendleton appeared before the meeting to share information regarding his attempt to procure an aquarium chiller to enable his classes to continue for a second year their “Trout in the Classroom” project. Skip explained that the students raise trout from egg form beginning in an aquarium and later releasing them into the wild when they have achieved maturity sufficient for survival. Skip noted that controlling the aquarium’s water temperature is critical to success. Last year Skip’s class used a chiller borrowed from a school in Goshen. It is not available this year, so Skip would like to purchase one. The cost is \$788. At its 2019-09-09 meeting, the Commission discussed supporting the project and hoped a matching gift could be secured from another group. Skip said he had received a \$500 grant from the Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited organization. It was moved by Ian, and seconded by Rebecca, that the Conservation Commission pay the balance of \$288. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Other Business

- **Freda Swan Commemoration – 2019-11-03** – Blake reported that almost 40 people, including Rebecca, Tom and Matt, attended the Sunday, November 3 plaque unveiling event commemorating Lyme resident Freda Swan’s considerable contributions to conservation, specifically her spearheading of a drive to conserve land along Lyme’s, scenic Breck Hill Road. Through her efforts, along with support from the Society for Protection of NH Forests, nearly 200 acres of land, owned by eleven households, was conserved in December 1986. See more about this pioneering conservation effort by using this link:

<https://uvlt.org/2019/10/commemorating-a-historic-land-conservation-achievement-and-remembering-freda-swan/>

7. Publicity

- Blake will supply an article

8. Adjournment

On a motion from Ian, seconded by Rebecca, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, December 2, 2019 at the Lyme Center Academy Building beginning 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*