



**Lyme Conservation Commission  
Meeting Agenda  
Monday, April 5, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.  
ZOOM Meeting**

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

**PUBLIC:** Present via ZOOM phone connection – Hoyt Alverson, Lin Brown, Ann Flood, Layla Hanissian, Jill Kearney, Rusty Keith, Sue MacKenzie and Sara Zahendra

Chair Allison called the meeting back into public session at 7:00 pm. He appointed Rebecca, David and Russell to serve as a full, voting members for the meeting.

Before commencing the business portion of the meeting, Blake presented the document “**A Checklist to Ensure Meetings Are Compliant with The Right-to-Know Law During the State of Emergency.**” Blake explained that because the Lyme Center Academy Building is closed to the public, certain requirements for public meeting access must be met to comply with Governor Sununu’s Executive Order (Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04) allowing for town boards and committees to meet online.

**1. Non-public Session to Review Commission Membership Applications**

- At 6:30 pm Chair Allison moved that the Commission go into “Non-public Session” to consider applications from five Lyme residents seeking to join the Conservation Commission.

**2. Return to Public Session**

- At 7:00 pm, the Commission returned to Public Session.

**3. Review and Approve Minutes from 2021-03-01 Meeting**

- On a motion by Tom, seconded by Russell, the March minutes were approved as submitted by a unanimous rollcall vote.

**4. Land Protection and Easements**

- **No Items Submitted.**

**5. Trails and Land Management**

- **Chaffee Bank Stabilization** – Matt invited Commission members to join him at the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary Tuesday, April 6 at 4:30 pm to work on stabilizing Trout Brook’s banks through the implanting of alder and other sapling stakes.



## Trails and Land Management, cont.

- **Biodiversity Working Group (BWG) 2021 Season Plans** – Meg gave an update on the BWG's plans for the upcoming season noting it will be the BWG's fourth. She said the effort to control the spread of Japanese knotweed in the Big Rock Preserve would continue. She also noted that two stewards will be hired to work on a for pay basis. Meg is hoping the easing of Covid-19 restrictions will allow the BWG to engage groups of volunteers to work as was the case prior to 2020.
- **Annual Post-winter Trail Inspections** – Blake observed that when the woods dry out, it will be necessary for Commission members to visit the various Lyme preserves to assess the condition of the trails regarding blow downs, trail erosion, etc., The future of the Boy Scout camp in the Town Forest also was discussed. It was noted that the site and its structures are in disrepair creating "an attractive nuisance" situation. After some discussion it was agreed people associated with the Lyme Scouts Troop should be contacted to ascertain whether there were plans to continue to use the camp site. Blake said he would do that.

## 6. Project and Application Review

- **Loch Lyme Lodge Septic Upgrade** – Will Davis of Horizons Engineering appeared before the Commission to present plans for a proposed upgrade of Loch Lyme Lodge's septic systems. Davis said the intention is to link all the cabins and other dwellings to direct their combined effluent discharge to a single, large holding tank and leach field situated uphill from the community's structures. He noted that much of the project will take place within environmentally sensitive zones and Post Pond's buffer. Davis said that "directional drilling" will be used when installing the connective pipelines to minimize the work's impact. David also said some clearing of trees will be necessary to accommodate the placing of the leach field and holding tank.

Commission members agreed that the benefit of improved waste treatment and subsequent gain in ground water quality outweighed the limited impact of the project's construction. The ultimate benefit to Post Pond also was cited as a plus. On a motion by Tom, seconded by Russ, the Commission voted unanimously by roll call vote to give its endorsement to the project. Blake said he would write a letter to the Lyme ZBA conveying that decision.

**Route 10/High Street Watercourse** – Blake explained that Zoning Administrator David Robbins had contacted him requesting the Commission's opinion about the "ditch" that transects the triangle of land within the intersection of NH Route 10 and High Street. David said that Lyme resident Rusty Keith had contacted him requesting a determination whether that watercourse's presence created a Shoreland Conservation District as defined in Section 3.33 of Lyme's Zoning Ordinance. David said that the zoning ordinance requires him to consult with the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board on such matters.



### **Route 10/High Street Watercourse, cont.**

Blake noted that on Sunday, March 21, four members of the Commission conducted a site visit with Certified Wetlands Scientist James Kennedy who offered the analysis that *"The ditch line would not fall under the Shoreland Conservation District, as it probably won't meet the definition of "all other surface waters". However, it is probably an intermittent stream with associated wetlands, which would meet the vegetation, hydrology, and soils criteria in the Wetlands Conservation District. However, wetlands less than 2,500 sq ft in area are exempt from the District (which also includes land within a 100-foot buffer). If the wetland is 191 feet long and 10 feet wide, that would be 1,910 sq ft and therefore not in the District. Of course, those dimensions would have to be verified in the field.*

*The intermittent stream and the land (which could be upland) to the top of bank (defined in the NHDES rules) would fall under NHDES jurisdiction and would require a permit for any direct impacts."*

Blake stated that the watercourse connects two wetland complexes: one in front of and above the Town Offices, the other across Rt. 10 on the grounds of 39 Pleasant St. He observed that water flowing through the ditch into the lower wetland would certainly have an impact on that system's water quality. After some discussion, Tom moved, with Russ seconding, that the Conservation Commission recommend to the David Robbins and the ZBA that "any development that occurs in the adjacent properties employ best management practices sufficient to maximize protection of the watercourse and the downstream wetland." The motion passed unanimously on a rollcall vote.

As a footnote, Blake opined that the Zoning Ordinance's vagueness of the Shoreland Conservation District's definition of waterbodies should be rectified through greater specificity. He suggested that a revision along the lines of Hanover's "Water Bodies Definitions" might be in order.

## **7. Outreach and Education**

- **"Green Up Day" 2021** – Blake said that "Green Up Day" is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. He said he is working with CommunityCare of Lyme to coordinate the planning and implementation of the event and that more information would be forthcoming next week.

## **8. Other Business**

- **"Old River Road" Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles 13 & 14** – Blake said he had received inquiries about what the Commission position was about the two Warrant Articles (13 & 14) being put before the voters to determine the fate of the former and now by-passed section of River Road. River Road resident Hoyt Alverson argued for the adoption of Article 14 as it would provide the most flexibility facilitating the creation of a pedestrian path and park along the abandoned roadway. Russ and Matt concurred saying Article 14 would provide the widest possible right of way. Blake said that the Conservation Commission has twice gone on record in support of creating a park there and has offered financial backing to help implement it. He also stated that there has been no discussion of what the park/pedestrian path might look like or



**“Old River Road” Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles 13 & 14, cont.**

what the extent of the Commission might be involved in the planning. Blake noted that the Commission has its May meeting in advance of the rescheduled Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 15 where the two articles will be put before the voters. There is still time, he said, for further deliberation, and he recommended the discussion be tabled until then.

**9. Publicity**

- Blake will supply an article for the April/May Lyme Community and Church News.

**10. Adjournment**

- On a motion by Russ, seconded by Matt, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm on a unanimous rollcall vote.

Respectfully submitted,

*V. Blake Allison, Chair and Secretary pro tem*

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If matters of business warrant it, the next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will take place via ZOOM conference call on Monday, May 3, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m.