



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
ZOOM Meeting**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair and Secretary *pro tem*), Lin Brown, Tom Colgan, Ann Flood, Jill Kearney (Alternate), Susan MacKenzie, Meg Sheehan, Matt Stevens and Sara Zahendra (Alternate)

Chair Allison called the meeting into public session at 7:02 pm.

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 and conduct public business online.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2021-05-03 Meeting

- On a motion by Ann, seconded by Sue, the May minutes were approved as submitted by a unanimous rollcall vote. Tom abstained, because he did not attend the meeting.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Still Looking for Easement Monitoring Coordinator** – Blake said the search for a new easement monitoring coordinator is ongoing and that he will be retrieving the files later this week from James Munroe.
- **Post Pond Monitoring Program Update?** – Sue said that she and Matt had not met since the Commission’s May meeting. There was a brief discussion about proactive actions that could be taken such as identifying and marking “colonies” in March, recruiting a team of “pullers” and coordinating their work the herbicide treatment.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Annual Post-winter Trail Inspections** – A review of the different surveys revealed no significant trail issues.
- **Upper Valley Trails Alliance HS Trails Corps Update** – Blake reported that Russ has set Wednesday, July 14 and Thursday, July 22 as the UVTA’s Trails Corps’ workdays in Trout Pond Forest. Issues needing to be resolved by then include moving the main sign closer to the trail head and getting a sign placed at the intersection of Pony Hill Lane and Hardscrabble Lane indicating the direction to the trail head.



4. Project and Application Review

- **No Item Submitted**

5. Outreach and Education

- **“Trails Day” 2021 Options** – Blake broached the subject of whether some other projects might be pursued in lieu of “Trails Day.” He noted that there is a patch of garlic mustard on E. Thetford Road that should be pulled before it spreads further. He said the patch is at the back of a “posted” field owned by Arend Tensen whose permission would be needed to access the plants. Ann said she knows Arend and would call him as well as helping to line up a team of “pullers.”
- **Recycling and Solid Waste Management** – Blake said he had been approached post “Green Up Day” about what might lie ahead for litter control in the absence of a formal recycling program at the “Transfer Station.” He said that a new concrete pad had been poured to accommodate a second packer dedicated to “Zero Sort” recycling, but he didn’t know the timetable for starting. Blake said he would talk to station manager Matt Thebedo to find out whether an inaugural date was in sight.
- **Town Forest Scout Camp Update** – Blake said he had been contacted by Lyme Boy Scout Troop Assistant Scoutmaster Todd Protzman who expressed an interest in the camp. He said his son Logan is considering making it his Eagle Scout project and that they were going to visit the camp to assess the possibilities. There was general agreement among Commission members that the camp is in a significant state of disrepair and that the best course of action might be to close it. Blake said he would follow up with the Protzmans to find out what issues their visit raised.

6. Other Business

- **Enhancing the LCC’s “Presence” in the Lyme Community?** – Matt had raised the question of what the Conservation Commission could do to increase public awareness of its mission and activities. He cited Northern Woodlands’ “This Week in the Woods” feature as a possible model for what might be done to spur more public interest and involvement. It was also suggested that working more closely with the Lyme School’s science programs might be an effective way to encourage broader public engagement. Sara expressed willingness to bring her expertise to bear on such a program and encouraged other members to join her.
- **River Road By-pass** – There was a discussion about what the next steps are regarding implementing Town Meeting’s vote to make the discontinued roadway segment into a “Class A” trail. It was agreed more needed to be known about the Select Board’s intentions and expectations. Blake said he would write the Board seeking that information.
- **CRC and Hydropower Relicensing** – Blake noted that the Connecticut River hydropower dam relicensing process is moving ahead. The Commission should be prepared to enter a statement when the public comment period commences in July, he said.



7. Publicity

- Blake will supply an article for the June/July Lyme Community & Church News

8. Adjournment

- On a motion by Lin, seconded by Meg, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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 at the Lyme Center Academy Building and via a ZOOM conference call on Monday, July 12, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m.