



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

The meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom in accordance with New Hampshire's "right to know" statutes.

CC Attendance in Person: Blake Allison (Chair and Secretary *pro tem*), Lin Brown, Tom Colgan, Sue McKenzie (*Vice Chair*), Jill Niles, Meg Sheehan, Matt Stevens and Sara Zahendra

Public in Person: Jim Kennedy

Public via Zoom: Jaxon Morgan, Jeff Smith and Barbara Woodard

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2022-05-02 Meeting

On a motion from Tom, seconded by Lin, the minutes of the March meeting were passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Post Pond Eurasian Milfoil Control Program Update** – Sue said that a volunteers meeting was being scheduled for the third week of June. She also noted that diver volunteers had withdrawn due to length of time required for training.
- **LBWG Update re Summer Projects** – LBWG member Jaxon Morgan reported that three high school interns had been hired for this season's work. She said they are to start around June 14. "Big Rock" will again be the program's principal focus. Meg said they also will be working to generate broader community involvement.
- **Jeff Smith re Town Forest and Trout Pond Forest Management Plans Updates** – Jeff appeared via Zoom to discuss how the update might proceed. He noted that since the previous plans were written, terrestrial invasives and climate change have emerged as issues that need to be factored in, i.e., what are the likely impacts pests, disease and changing weather patterns? He also noted that a preliminary assessment should be undertaken and that it should consider the forest's current condition versus what our goals for it might be.

There was discussion about the management plans. Do we need new ones? Tom noted that if we proceed with placing conservation easements on the properties, updated management plans will be required as part of that process? What is the likely cost of generating the plans? Should the process be put out for bid? How wide ranging should the plans be? Should they include comprehensive natural resource inventories?

Blake said a group visit to the sites might facilitate better understanding of how the process would work. He said he would contact Jeff about scheduling a field session.



Land Protection and Easements, cont.

- **Scheduling LCIP Site Visits** – Blake noted that representatives from New Hampshire’s “Land Conservation Stewardship Plan (LCSP),” formerly known as LCIP, are planning two days of Town-owned easement monitoring activity later in the month. It was agreed that June 20 and 21 would facilitate the most participation by Commission members. Blake said he would firm up those dates with the LCSP visitors.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **“Trails Day” Follow Up** – Blake reported that Matt, Jill, Lin and he spent a couple of hours last Saturday down at the Hewes Brook Cartop Boat Launch. In addition to cleaning up the trail area, some invasive trees were removed and a stand of Japanese knotweed adjacent to the bridge was cut down. Also, Matt planted three pagoda dogwood trees.

4. Project and Application Review

- **Jim Kennedy – Driveway Relocation** – Wetlands scientist Jim Kennedy presented on behalf of David Roby and Arend Tensen a proposal to relocate the entrance and driveway servicing a cornfield on E. Thetford Road. Jim explained that the current point access is at a section of the road that has comprised visibility thereby posing a safety hazard for fieldworkers. He said that because the new driveway would cross a wet area in the field, the project needs a NHDES wetlands permit and a Town of Lyme “special exemption.” Roby and Tensen are requesting an expedited permitting process to move the work forward this season. They are asking the Commission to sign off on one to limit the review’s length of time. There was discussion about the wet spot’s significance relative to the surrounding area’s drainage. Jim noted that it is isolated and not connected to a larger system. On a motion by Tom, seconded by Jill, the expedited permit request was approved on a unanimous roll call vote.

5. Outreach and Education

- **No Items Submitted**

6. Other Business

- **No Items Submitted**

7. Publicity

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



8. Adjournment

- On a motion by Tom, seconded by Sue, Chair Allison adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

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 in person and via remote teleconference at the Lyme Center Academy Building on Monday, August 1, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please note there will be no July meeting, because the 4th of July holiday conflicts with the Commission's normal first Monday of the month meeting time.