

**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2015**



Members Present: Blake Allison (Chair and Secretary, *pro tem*), Tom Colgan, MaryBeth Keifer (Alternate), Lee Larson (Alternate), Sue MacKenzie (Select Board), James Munroe and Matt Stevens.

Blake convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. He appointed MaryBeth and Lee as full voting members due to the absence of Joanne and Russell.

1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2/09/15

- On unanimous votes, the Public Hearing and regularly scheduled meeting minutes from February were approved as submitted.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Re-consideration of Conservation Fund Withdrawal for Bailey/Clay Brook Easement Purchase – Blake** noted that he had received an e-mail from UVLT VP for Conservation Peg Merrens on February 13. In it she wrote that she had consulted an orthophoto map and that "the proposed trail led to a subdivision close to someone's house, and beyond this house, enroute to the Town forest, was another house with a very large yard and what look to be numerous structures spread out across the lot." She also said that the field's owner David Robey was "concerned about the agricultural activities, lack of parking, and capacity to sell the property with additional access" and "does't think it is a good idea."

Blake observed that had that information been known prior to the February 9 vote, events might have transpired differently. As such, he was offered Commission members an opportunity to make any additional comments they might want to proffer regarding last February's Conservation Fund withdrawal.

Tom reiterated his previously stated concerns about public funds being used to purchase property with no public access. That was why, he said, he had proposed reducing the original \$30,000 contribution to \$15,000 if the hay field could not be accessed. He also noted that the Clay Brook Trail had been assembled piecemeal which made a precedent for having trail access along the hay field even if present conditions meant it could not go farther. It was asked whether all foot traffic had been precluded.

No further action was taken.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **No Items submitted**

4. Project and Application Review

- **No Items Submitted**

5. Outreach and Education

- **Snowshoe Walk Recap – James** said that six people, including himself and Lee attended the walk and enjoyed good snowshoeing conditions. They walked out to Pout Pond.

6. Other Business

- **Post Pond Eurasian Milfoil Update – Blake** said he attended the Select Board's public hearing regarding an appropriation for the 2015 Eurasian milfoil herbicide treatment at Post Pond. He reported that last year's decision to apply the herbicide at the season's beginning seemed to be effective. The milfoil's area of infestation had been reduced. The cost of this year's treatment is estimated at \$21,115 with NH Dept. of Environmental Services contributing up to 25% (\$5,279). **Sue** said the amount could be lower if the milfoil spread has not worsened.
- **UVLT Con Com Gathering Recap – Lee** reported that the event was well attended. He said the focus this year was exploring ways conservation commissions could work co-operatively on issues having to do with watersheds or forest fragmentation.

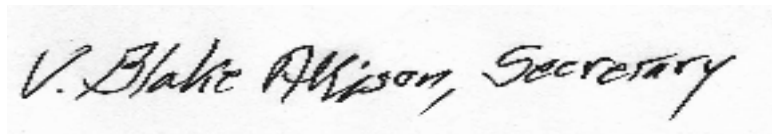
7. Publicity

- **Lyme Community and Church News Item – Matt** shared an anecdote about an unusual situation he found at his home. He said a snow bank had been hollowed out and there were black feathers in and around it. He speculated that a predator might have killed a chicken and cached it there for later use. It was agreed the subject with photo might be an interesting "Conservation Corner" piece.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Blake Allison, Secretary *pro tem*

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6 beginning 7:00 p.m. at the Lyme Center Academy Building