



**Lyme Conservation Commission (CC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 5, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

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

CC Attendance in Person: Blake Allison (Chair), Sue Mackenzie (Vice-Chair), Ann Flood (Secretary), Matt Stevens, Tom Colgan, Lin Brown, David Lysy

Members joining by zoom: none

Public joining in person: Elise Tinninghast (representing Northern Woodlands)

The Chair (Blake) called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Proposal for CC to support Northern Woodlands Moth Ball in 2023

- **Elise Tinninghast presented the proposal**

As a courtesy to Elise Tinninghast who was invited to meet the CC and describe the Moth Ball but who could not stay for the whole meeting, Blake began the meeting by inviting Elise Tinninghast to introduce herself and describe the proposed Moth Ball. Elise noted that this year's Moth Ball is scheduled for June 23, 2023 8-11pm at Northern Woodlands 'backyard', #16 On the Common, Lyme, NH. The purpose is to watch moths attracted to the light on a lighted sheet 'stage' fashioned for the purpose by JoAnne Russo, a lepidopterist. There are several different moths expected on the 'dance cards' for the event, e.g., the sphinx. There will be refreshments, music and fuzzy hats. The event is limited to 50 people and so registration in advance is required. It is free but donations are welcome (\$5 is suggested). People should come prepared with a flashlight, a camera, and eye protection such as UV glasses. Parking is in Stella's lot only so try to keep cars to a minimum by walking, carpooling etc. The event is co-hosted by the CC and she thanked the CC for its support.

- **Proposal of support**

After Elise left, Blake said that the co-hosting did not require a donation by the CC but he recommended the CC approve a donation in an amount \geq \$100 from the educational fund. After some discussion, Tom moved that we donate \$200 for support of the Northern Woodlands' educational efforts like the Moth Ball. Sue seconded and it passed on roll call unanimously.

2. Review and Approve Minutes from 2023-05-01 Meeting

- On a motion from Lin, seconded by Matt, the minutes of the 2023-05-01 meeting as amended were passed unanimously on a roll call vote. (Members who were not present at the meeting abstained.)



3. Land Protection and Easements

- **Forest Management Plans Update – Ecological Assessment Proposal**

Blake and Matt reported that there was no progress to report.

4. Trails and Land Management

- **Post Pond Eurasian Water-Milfoil Update**

DES Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator Amy Smagula sent out a survey of Milfoil. Milfoil in the East Coast was much worse than anticipated. A State contract diver will be harvesting milfoil during the week of June 19-23, using a Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) boat. He would appreciate two kayakers to assist with scooping up stray milfoil tendrils that escape and float to the surface. July 8 is the first day that the Mascoma group can work on Post Pond. Jay will work on the heaviest area while other volunteers will do the rest.

Sue discussed using this as another photo opportunity, e.g., informing the Valley News and using the Lyme listserv to educate people as well as seek new volunteers. She reported that the planned kiosk for Post Pond is being built and solicited advice and interest on what to post there.

- **Town Forest “Metes and Bounds” Survey Update**

Matt and Blake reported there has been no progress on hiring anyone to do a survey. Matt said he needed several people to help improve the physical boundaries, which is easier to do in the fall but it is not necessary to wait.

- **Trail Condition Survey**

On June 3 Jill, who could not attend the meeting, sent an email on the trail condition:

“I checked the Ridge trail last week and did some clearing. It is fine but part of the trail has morphed into a mountain biking loop that starts just after the first bridge, closest to Orfordville Rd. At the top of the Ridge trail there is an interesting small structure made up of sticks and branches; sort of a triangular, elongated teepee, but only about 3' high. Might come in handy for an animal seeking shelter. Looks like it's been there for quite a while.

“The Beaver Pond trail is in good shape although there is one tree hung up across it as you approach the Scout shelter after crossing the second bridge. It's high enough that it's easy to walk under and I don't think it needs any immediate attention. I can monitor it and keep you posted.”

Matt reported that these issues mentioned by Jill have now been taken care of. David has completed most of the tree removal and chain saw work on the trails but has one chunk left. He said there is another tree but it is very high up and not stopping people from using the trail and not dangerous, so he is leaving that. Tom reported that the woodland trail in Chaffee needs to be weedwhacked as well as the Route 10 entrance to Big Rock. Blake reported that there are birds roosting along the Chaffee trail and a pair of osprey have been nesting near Wilder Dam.

Trails and Land Management continued...

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- **Install Trail Signage**

There was some discussion with no decision regarding whether the signage is all that is needed, e.g., also including a map at Post Pond. There was some discussion about the size of the post needed, e.g., that a 4x4 post would last longer and be fine for most purposes. Sue has a post-holer that can be borrowed for the purpose. Some signs could be put on trees but need to be a spacer. Tom and Lin volunteered to put up the signs.

- **Other**

There is a need to repair the bridge on Trout Pond Brook. Russell has indicated that it is safe for passage so, although repairs to the Trout Pond Brook bridge are not needed imminently, plans should be made to replace the structure. The replacement would be modeled on the bridges installed in the Town Forest over Whipple Brook in 2022. Matt mentioned that there is also a need to replace some big signs such as the welcome sign to the Town Forest and orient them toward the road for better visibility. Chaffee and Hewes Brook also need new signs so they can be seen from two directions.

5. Project and Application Review

- No items were submitted.

6. Outreach and Education

- **“Green Up Day” 2023-05-06**

Blake mentioned there was a good turnout and the main arteries were all done. We are very grateful to Community Care for their help with the breakfast and sign up procedures.

- **“Trails Day” 2023-06-03**

Trails Day" did not take place, not only due to rain that day but also because there were no projects needing immediate attention. Trail issues needing action were successfully addressed as a result of the "Trail Condition Survey."

7. Other Business

- **Utility Club Pollinator Garden**

Lin reported that the work is progressing but there is no plan yet for which plants will be used.

- **Access Road to Trout Pond**

There was some discussion about a need to improve the road. Blake mentioned that the CC has paid twice for such improvements but such repairs are not really in the our mission; it is under the purview of the Select Board. More specifically, the Trout Pond Forest access road was designated a "Class 6 Emergency Access Road" by voters at an Annual Town Meeting approximately 10 years ago. As such, it became the Town's duty to maintain it. When the Town in the past did not maintain it, the CC got involved. However, Blake noted that repair issues,

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Other Business continued...

going forward, should be the Town's responsibility. He indicated he is trying to find the Warrant Article authorization to clarify the responsible party but has not been able to locate it so far.

- **Knotweed at Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary**

Some knotweed on adjacent private property (corner of Rt. 10 and N. Thetford Road) is working its way steadily toward Town land at Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary, so it needs to be monitored and its spread controlled. The property line's location needs to be established for purposes of control efforts on Town property. The owners have not to date been approached about control on their property. The State mows the knotweed at that location near the road which exacerbates the spreading problem.

- **Tax related issue (tabled)**

Sue raised an issue on the variability of taxation on conserved land in Lyme over past years. Blake tabled any discussion because it is an issue only the Select Board can decide or act on.

8. Publicity

- Blake will continue to send notices to the Lyme listserv.

9. Adjournment

- Blake called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Tom, seconded by Lin, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Barry Flood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Secretary

As is the usual case, the July meeting is cancelled, due to its proximity to July 4. The next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will take place, both in person and via a Zoom teleconference link, at the Lyme Center Academy Building on Monday, August 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.