

TOWN OF LYME
PUBLIC MEETING
LYME COMMON USE POLICY

April 8, 2015

Town Office Conference Room

Approved: April 16, 2015

The following were present for part or all of the meeting: Susan J. MacKenzie (Chair), Patricia G. Jenks, C. Jay Smith and Shaun O'Keefe (Police Chief).

Members of the Public: Laurie Wadsworth, Bev Strout, Earl Strout, Pat Pippin, Jackie Glass, Carola Lee, Abbie Murphy, Bill Murphy, Nancy Snyder, JJ Pippin.

Chair MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Sue explained that this policy was to try to address some of the issues that have arisen over the years regarding inconsistencies, parking/no parking policies and why we have done what we do to protect the common.

Sue asked the question, "How would you change the policy?"

The question was asked "why no vehicles on the common?" It was explained that the policy is to discourage vehicles on the common as constant use will cause damage. There are in fact times that vehicles are tacitly allowed. The Flea Market, Memorial Day and the Church are some examples. There is no parking in winter because plowing the common would take time and money and plows can damage the ground. The Town will try to come up with a way to snow blow paths across the common for the convenience of the residents.

There were questions about the road on the back side of the common. It was explained that this is a State Road and not under the jurisdiction of the Town.

Bill murphy asked why we needed a new policy as there had always been parking on the common. He mentioned Church parking. Shaun explained there has always been an exception for the Church.

What about guests for common residents? Shaun stated that as long as they knew ahead of time it was not a problem. One thing to remember is the State law that states that all four tires must be off the traveled way and there must be room for emergency vehicles to get through.

Shaun also brought up the no parking on the Route 10 side of the common. This is a safety issue due to the traffic on Route 10. This brought up a discussion regarding putting a fence on the Route 10 side. Several people talked about the fences in other towns with granite posts and removable bars. It would need pedestrian gaps and possible vehicle gaps. This would also eliminate the need for "yellow caution" tape which is placed on that side during many functions. Sue stated this is something we can look into and maybe put in next year's budget.

TOWN OF LYME
PUBLIC MEETING
LYME COMMON USE POLICY

April 8, 2015

Town Office Conference Room

Approved: April 16, 2015

Earl asked about trees on the common and if in the future if a tree is replaced or added if we might let someone donate a new tree "In Memory of" with a small plaque. Everyone thought this was a god idea.

A question was raised regarding the Parking Ordinance and the Common Use Policy being in conflict. Shaun explained that the Common Use Request Form comes to him as well as the Selectboard so he is aware of what has been authorized/approved.

The general consensus was that what we are doing now, deciding each use on a case by case basis was working. Sue noted that the Board would discuss the Policy and make a few tweaks based on information from the meeting at their regular meeting tomorrow. She thanked everyone for coming and for providing their input.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
C, jay Smith