



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 12, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.
Fire Station Meeting Room**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Sue MacKenzie (Vice-Chair), Matt Stevens, Lin Brown and John Biglow (Alternate)

Members and public via Zoom: None

Public present: Donn Downey/Upper Valley Forest Management

Blake called the meeting into session at 7:07 pm. John was appointed as a full voting member.

1. Review and Approve 2025-11-10 Minutes -- On a motion by Sue, seconded by Matt, the November minutes were approved by a unanimous rollcall vote.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Town Forest and Chaffee Conservation Easements Update** – Blake noted the later agenda item where there will be a vote on whether to approve wording for an Annual Meeting Warrant article that will authorize the Conservation Commission to seek to place a conservation easement on the Town Forest. Details under “Other Business.” No new easement action involving the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary. For now, the matter seems mostly settled. See 2025-11-10 Approved Minutes.
- **2025 Easement Monitoring Update** – Blake reported that the monitoring reports have been processed and have been filed with the appropriate agencies. He said report copies and thank you notes will go out to the landowners shortly.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Town Forest “Ledge Trail” Outlook Clearing Update** – Blake said that as far as he knows everything is in place for the project to moved forward when ground conditions allow. A \$1000 donation to fund the project from the McGowan family has been deposited in the Conservation Fund account, and the necessary paperwork has been signed by him and the contractor Eric Bragg.
- **Town Forest and Trout Pond Forest Draft Management Plans** – No update.
- **UVTA HS Trails Corps 2026 Project(s)** -- Members present agreed with UVTA Exec. Dir. Russell Hirschler’s recommendation that the 2026 project focus on replacing the Chaffee Sanctuary’s bog bridge trail. The commission now awaits Russ’s cost estimate.
- **Preserve Signage** – Matt said that he and James Mason had met and developed a plan to replace the gateway signage at all the town’s nature preserves. He said the signs would be mounted on 6”x6” posts, be two-sided and hung perpendicular to their respective roadways. He said the lettering would be painted on. The program’s cost is estimated at \$1000. Members present endorsed the proposal and urged Matt to move ahead.



4. Project and Application Review

- **Upper Valley Forest Management (UVFM) -- Storrs Hill Lane Project** – UVFM owner Donn Downey appeared before the commission to present a plan for a tree thinning and wildlife habitat creation project on the Storrs Hill Lane property Cynthia and Kevin Graf. The project will involve working around delimited wetlands and placing a poled crossing over a wet area to access one section of the property. Donn is seeking an expedited DES wetland permit and requests the commission’s approval. Subsequent discussion focused on concerns about protecting the wetland areas. The sense of the meeting was supportive of the project. Blake did raise the possibility that the commission might want a site visit before signing off.

5. Outreach and Education

- **No Items Submitted**

6. Other Business

- **Annual Post Pond Milfoil Treatment Funding Request** -- Commission members present discussed the Town of Lyme’s annual request that Conservation Commission Fund money be used to help pay for the annual Eurasian milfoil control herbicide treatment at Post Pond. Sue noted that despite considerable progress being made using non-herbicide intervention, the milfoil problem remains a serious threat to the pond and should not be left untreated. She recommended that the treatment be applied earlier in the season and that the state’s DASH (diver assisted suction harvester) boat. On a motion by Sue, seconded by Lin, the members present voted unanimously (five-to-zero) to approve the funding requested in Warrant Article 19. The full article accompanies these minutes.
- **Town Warrant Conservation Easement Article** – This article asks if “the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to convey a conservation easement on property located at [126 Orfordville Road](#), which is part of the Town Forest, to a qualifying organization, on such terms and conditions as the Conservation Commission may deem advisable.” Blake noted that the article’s language was written by Town Counsel and authorizes the Conservation Commission to seek a conservation easement on the Town Forest, but it does not require it or any expenditure of funds. On a motion by Matt, seconded by Sue, the members present voted unanimously (five-to-zero) to approve the funding requested in the Warrant Article. The full article accompanies these minutes.
- **HB 1530 re Abutter Notification Before Removing Beaver Dams** – Blake noted that there is a bill pending in the NH House (HB1530) pertaining to abutter rights regarding the removal of beaver dams. Noting the commission’s longtime proactive stance on matters pertaining to beavers and their habitat protections, Blake asked for permission to submit a supportive statement on behalf of the Conservation Commission in advance of the bill’s Wednesday, January 14 hearing. Members in attendance approved his request unanimously.



7. **Adjournment** -- On a motion by Matt, seconded by Sue, Blake adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

MILFOIL TREATMENT FOR POST POND

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty six thousand six hundred and twenty dollars (**\$46,620.00**) for milfoil treatment of Post Pond, with twenty three thousand three hundred and ten dollars (**\$23,310.00**) to be funded through a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; fourteen thousand and eighteen dollars (**\$14,018.00**) to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and nine thousand two hundred and ninety two dollars (**\$9,292.00**) to be funded by the withdrawal of this amount from the Conservation Fund. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the milfoil problem is resolved or by December 31, 2027, whichever is sooner.

This appropriation is **not** included in the total town operating budget warrant article as approved by the Budget Committee. (Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of .) (No amount to be raised by taxation.)

***AUTHORIZATION TO PUT A CONSERVATION EASEMENT
ON THE TOWN FOREST***

ARTICLE To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Conservation Commission to convey a conservation easement on property located at [126 Orfordville Road](#), which is part of the Town Forest, to a qualifying organization, on such terms and conditions as the Conservation Commission may deem advisable.

(Majority vote required.) (Recommended by the Conservation Commission by a vote of .)
(Recommended by the Select Board by a vote of)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Blake Allison, Secretary".

Blake Allison, Chair and Secretary *pro tempore*

NOTE: If matters of business warrant it, the next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will take place in person at the Lyme Fire Station and via ZOOM conference call on Monday, February 9, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m.