



**Lyme Conservation Commission (LCC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 9, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Lyme Fire Station Meeting Room**

**Present:** Blake Allison (Chair), Sue MacKenzie (Vice-Chair), Ann Flood (Secretary), Matt Stevens, Meg Sheehan, Lin Brown and John Biglow (Alternate)

Members via Zoom: None; public in person or via Zoom: None.

Blake called the meeting into session at 7:05 pm. John was appointed as a full voting member.

**1. Review and Approve Minutes from 2026-01-12 Meeting**

On a motion by Sue, seconded by Lin, the January minutes were approved by a unanimous rollcall vote, with members abstaining who were not present at that meeting.

**2. Land Protection and Easements**

**No items submitted**

**3. Trails and Land Management**

**• UVTA HS Trails Corps 2026 Project(s)**

Blake referred to plans distributed by Russell Hirschler to the LCC members by email, providing detailed plans and photos for the Upper Valley Trail Alliance's (UVTA) planned upgrade to the boardwalk through the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS). The cost of the project, to be completed in the summer of 2026 is \$16,500 and the request is for the LCC to fund a portion of the project. Russell will then submit a request to the Lyme Foundation to provide support for the remaining amount. There was discussion about the proportions that would be appropriate for the LCC and Lyme Foundation to support, the funds currently available to the LCC and Lyme Foundation for such projects and the delay of the project that might be caused by possibly having to return to the LCC if allotted funds were insufficient. The sense of the discussion was to approve the full amount, with the preference for the Lyme Foundation to be willing to provide some support with the LCC willing to provide up to 100% if necessary to move the project forward.

Lin moved and Meg seconded: The LCC should use the Conservation Fund to support up to \$16,500 for the proposed project to construct a replacement boardwalk in CWS. On a rollcall vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Blake said he would let Russell know about the motion and the sense of the discussion. Blake informed the group that there would still be monies left for other important projects like the milfoil removal at Post Pond.



- **Monitoring of Town Conserved Properties (ad hoc addition to agenda)**

At the request of a member for an update about the monitoring reports, Blake mentioned that all had been submitted to the appropriate bodies and a copy sent to the owner of each property. No negative feedback or requests for changes or clarifications have been received from anyone to date.

- **Town Forest and Trout Pond Forest Draft Management Plans –**

Blake reported no progress in finalizing draft plans. However, there was an update on the warrant going to the Town at the March Town Meeting requesting support of proceeding to formally conserve the Town Forest. The wording of the warrant was changed to refer to the Town Forest by map and lot so that there would be no misunderstanding that all of the pieces of the Town Forest would be included. It would be submitted to the Town as having the unanimous support of the LCC and majority support (2:1) of the Select Board. The dissenting member of the Select Board argued that future members of the Town ought to be able to decide on management, including cutting of the forest. It will be presented and discussed at the Little Town Meeting on March 3 with voting at the Business Meeting. Blake will attend both and would welcome other members attending. Meg offered to attend the meetings and offer support and the rationale for the LCC's wanting to move forward to conserve the Town Forest, i.e., that the current generation feels that it is valuable enough to preserve in perpetuity.

There was some discussion about the proposal to make the Office of Overseer an office appointed annually by the Select Board rather than elected for a longer period. There was general support for keeping it an elected office, including the importance for retaining the office for a longer period so that the person had greater knowledge and experience with the issues.

#### **4. Project and Application Review**

- **No Items Submitted**

#### **5. Outreach and Education**

- **Scheduling 2026 “Green Up Day”**

Blake reported that a potential problem has been resolved. Kym Williams of Community Care had originally informed Blake that they decided to change the date of Green-up Day. Blake had expressed surprise, feeling that the LCC should set the date and it had traditionally occurred on the first Saturday of May. It turned out that Community Care could not do the proposed changed date either and so the issue became moot.



- **CommunityCare Coordinators Meeting Recap**

Lin reported on a CommunityCare. Of Lyme coordinators meeting that was recently held, to try to improve communication and coordination across the several groups that provide services to Lyme. She said about 20 people attended. The intent was to provide a forum where the various groups would remain informed about what the others were doing. The Planning Board will come to the next lunch, Monday, February 16, 11:30-1 at the Congressional Church. The lunch is a community effort that helps provide the spirit of cooperation and coordination. Lin said she presented her 'Wish List' that was well-received, including ideas such as distributing maps of the Town Properties in Welcome Packets given to new people. She also mentioned needing help to clear the new CWS accessible path/maintain it. Planning something for July 4, 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US has not yet been organized. Blake mentioned putting up nesting boxes might be another suggestion to seek help from other groups.

## 6. Other Business

Blake mentioned the bill introduced into the NH House, HB1691, regarding Current Use which would remove/restrict local control over current use designations. There is some evidence to support that the present Current Use statute does need study/reform to eliminate abuses of the current law. However, members agreed that HB 1691 seems ill-conceived and without sufficient input into issues like imposing native plants (and designating them officially for this purpose). The sense of the members was that there is good reason to study current use and reform it but issues around larger towns and rural areas and impact on wildlife need to be better studied to inform how current law should be changed.

Matt proposed and Ann seconded a motion: The CCL supports in principle the study of current use law and how to reform it but does not support this bill.

On a roll call, the motion passed, with all voting 'yay' except for one abstention.

## 7. Adjournment

On a motion by Matt, seconded by Lin, Blake adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Barry Flood".

Ann Barry Flood, Secretary

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, March 9, beginning at 7:00 p.m.