



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 6, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

Present: Blake Allison (Chair), Meg Sheehan, Matt Stevens & Jill Niles (Secretary pro tem)
Member via Zoom: Sue MacKenzie
Public in Person: Jesse Cutting

Blake called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and proceeded to appoint Jill a full voting member.

1. Review and Approve 2026-03-09 Minutes

No vote was taken on the 2026-03-09 minutes, because, with the exception of Chair Allison, none of the members present tonight attended the March meeting. Consistent with precedent, all of them abstained. Blake then tabled the vote on those minutes until he can be confident, by consent of those who were in attendance at the March meeting, that the minutes accurately reflect what transpired at the meeting.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Town Forest Conservation Easement. Next Steps** – At the March Annual Town Meeting, voters authorized the Lyme Conservation Commission (LCC) to pursue a conservation easement on the Lyme Town Forest. Two organizations are being considered for setting up the easement. They are the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) and Northeast (NE) Wilderness Trust. Blake will follow up on making the requisite contacts. Meg said she would contact the NE Wilderness Trust.
- **Bailey Farm Easement** -- Blake shared that a few hours before tonight's meeting he received an e-mail from Adair Mulligan (past Exec. Dir. of the Hanover Conservancy and current member of the Orford Conservation Commission), that Dan and Millie Bailey had sold their NH Rt.10 turkey farm to the Bear Hill Conservancy Trust (David Roby). This sale took the form of a permanent land conservation easement on 80+ acres of land excluding land around the existing farm building. Key input into the written documents for the easement was received from Bill Wanner (Wanner Earthmoving LLC) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The house and barn will be restored and likely kept as a working farm.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Town Forest Management Assessment** – Our guest, Jesse Cutting, introduced himself and shared that he is a forester and an inspector for the NH Tree Farm program in which the Lyme Town Forest (LTF) is registered. He offered to review our current LTF management plan and make recommendations in advance of the LTF's next Tree Farm Program inspection in 2027. Matt suggested involving/inviting Jesse to join our Town Forest Hike on Sat., May 9th. Jesse agreed. Blake plans to check with Lin Brown, our LCC member who is organizing the hike, to confirm that she is comfortable with this.



Trails and Land Management, cont.,

- **Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) High School Trails Corps 2026 Project** – Blake reported that UVTA Exec. Dir. and LCC member Russell Hirschler told him The Lyme Foundation is generously donating \$10,000 toward the 2026 UVTA HS Trail Corps project to re-build the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary bog boardwalks. The LCC will be contributing \$6,500 which is less than what the LCC previously approved. See 2026-02-09 Minutes.
- **Town Forest and Trout Pond Forest Management Plans** – Item tabled due to absence of plan update managers Meg Sheehan and Matt Stevens.
- **Chaffee Path Maintenance** -- Lin wrote in an email that she will be asking CommunityCare of Lyme (CCL) to come up with volunteers to improve our ‘all persons access’ trail. They likely will call upon their “Dash Teams” for this. Matt felt that weed torches or herbicides might be necessary to eradicate the weeds and get them under control along the pathways. Lyme Fire Dept. Chief Aaron Rich would be asked to oversee this work if torches are used. Matt will contact Aaron to arrange the date. Thanks go to Rich Brown who has offered to run his DR Mower over the paths again this season. It was a huge help last year.
- **“Ledge Trail” View Clearing** -- Dina Cutting let us know that all the paperwork needed for this project to proceed has been received and approval is in place. Eric Bragg from Greenshield Arboriculture will move ahead with the project as soon as it is dry enough to get into the trail and do the work. He should be letting Blake know the date(s) and LCC members are welcome to stop by. Thanks go out again to Lyme residents Peter and Kathy McGowan for their generous donation to make this happen. It will be marvelous to have the view restored.
- **Eurasian Milfoil Control Project** -- Sue announced that the Friends of Post Pond’s (FoPP) first planning meeting is scheduled for Wed., April 15th. Dives are planned for afternoons this year. Sue suggested getting the NHDES DASH boat onto Post Pond in July to keep ahead of the milfoil. Commission members affirmed that the LCC will continue to financially support FoPP’s work.

4. Project and Application Review

- **No Items Submitted**

5. Outreach and Education

- **Nature Areas Virtual Tour Presentations for Commission Web Site** -- Matt suggested setting up a Google Drive to have residents share their Town Forest photos on 4/22, in acknowledgement of Earth Day. Meg said she had posted that request on the LCC section of the Town of Lyme’s Facebook page.



Outreach and Education, cont.,

- **Orford CC Lyme Town Forest Hike** -- Adair Mulligan invited all LCC members to join the Orford Conservation Commission's visit to the Lyme Town Forest on Sat., April 25th at 10am. The outing will depart from the forest's Orfordville Road parking area.
- **LCC Lyme Town Forest Hike** – Lin had expressed interest in leading a Town Forest hike on Saturday, May 9. Particulars will be discussed during May's meeting.
- **Green Up Day 2026** – This annual event will be held on Saturday, May 2 in conjunction with CommunityCare of Lyme's (CCL) annual "Day of Service." There will be an online signup sheet for volunteers wishing to help with roadside litter removal. CCL will be hosting a community wide breakfast on the 2nd beginning at 8:30am.

6. Other Business

- **Meeting Date and Place Change?** -- Blake will send an e-mail out to members requesting their input regarding our meeting place and dates. The choices are 1) the first Monday of the month at 7pm at the Lyme Center Academy Building (LCAB), or 2) the second Monday of the month at 7pm in the Lyme Fire Station meeting room. We could potentially meet in the warmer months at the LCAB and the Fire Station for the colder half of the year.
- **LCC Term Renewals** – Blake announced that both he and Matt have filed for LCC membership term renewals. He said Matt offered to become an Alternate and give his Full Member voting rights to the next most tenured Alternate. Blake then designated Jill Niles as a Full Voting Member going forward and confirmed that Matt will become an Alternate pending approval of appointments by the Select Board.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted by Jill K. Niles, Secretary *pro tempore* and Blake Allison, Chair

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

If matters of business warrant it, the next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will take place in person at the Lyme Center Academy Building and via ZOOM conference call on Monday, May 4, 2026, beginning at 7pm.