



**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Agenda
Monday, October 2, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Lyme Center Academy Building**

The meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom in accordance with New Hampshire's "right to know" statute.

CC Attendance in Person: Blake Allison (Chair), Lin Brown, Tom Colgan, David Lysy, Sue MacKenzie (Vice Chair), Jill Niles, Meg Sheehan, Matt Stevens and Sara Zahendra,
Public: John Biglow and Redstart Consulting presenters, Dana Hazen and Jim King
Zoom Attendees: None

Chair Allison called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Review and Approve 2023-09-11 Meeting Minutes

- On a motion from Tom, seconded by Matt, the minutes of the August meeting were passed unanimously on a roll call vote with Lin Brown abstaining, because she didn't attend.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **2023 Easement Monitoring Program** – Blake noted that the time for the Conservation Commission's annual monitoring of conservation easements, in which the Town of Lyme has an executory interest, has arrived. He said there are 28 properties that need to be monitored by December 31, 2023. He asked for help not only for the site visits but with processing the mailings and reports. He said he would provide more specifics in a week or so.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Post Pond Milfoil Control Report** – Sue gave an update on the Milfoil Control Committee's progress. She said that the divers are still working and going after new growth. There is one more dive scheduled for October.
- **"Friends of Post Pond" Update** – Sue reported on the first meeting of the newly formed "Friends of Post Pond" group. She said that 15 people attended. The attendees opted not to become a 501c3preferring instead to go forward as an informal organization.
- **Chaffee Management Plan Update Review** – Blake put forth the need to review, revise as necessary and approve the 2010 Chaffee Draft Management Plan. It was agreed to review the plan to see what updates, if any, were needed. It is hoped to complete this process by the time of the Commission's December meeting.



4. Project and Application Review

- **Red Start Consulting Habitat Restoration Projects** – Redstart Consultants Dana Hazen and James King appeared before the Commission to explain Redstart’s request for an Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit Application in conjunction with two projects it is planning for conserved lands in southeastern Lyme. One of the projects involves a continuation of work previously begun on lands in the Bear Hill Conservancy Trust (BHCT). The other is a new project proposed for lands belonging to Ben Kilham.

The purpose of both projects is stream restoration that will foster “beneficial habitat for eastern brook trout and other native fish species, and provide other ecosystem functions such as sediment retention, floodplain reengagement, and nutrient cycling.” The Redstart team explained that this purpose would be achieved through a process known as “Strategic Wood Addition (SWA).” This process seeks to restore streams to their historic, pre-European settlement state when woody debris from fallen trees and other sources disrupted water flow creating conditions beneficial to fish breeding. It was explained that the SWA strategy adds trees and other course woody materials to the stream at specified intervals to replicate what nature had produced over centuries.

Following a few questions from Commission members, Blake observed that the BHCT proposal is a continuation of a project previously approved by the Commission and that the Killham project is like it. He recommended approving the expedited permit applications thereby waiving the Commission’s right to further review. On a motion by Tom, seconded by Lin, the permits were approved on a roll call vote by a six-to-one majority.

5. Outreach and Education

- **No Items Submitted**

6. Other Business

- **Submit 2024 Annual Town Meeting Budget Proposal** – Blake said that the Conservation Commission’s budget request for 2024 is due by Friday, October 6. He noted that the amount requested by the Commission is almost unchanged since 2015. He proposed that the Commission’s 2024 request be for the same amounts as received in the 2023 budget, noting that expenditures for large maintenance projects and property improvements could paid out of the Conservation Fund as has been the case in the past. On a motion by Tom, seconded by Matt, Blake’s suggested 2024 budget request was passed by a unanimous roll call vote.
- **Solar Display Survey Response** – Blake noted that the Planning Board had recently mailed to Lyme residents a survey seeking feedback on “multi-acre, ground mounted, energy systems” and asked members whether there was interest in responding as a body. Members expressed concerns about the environmental impacts of such projects, i.e., cutting down trees and covering up agricultural soils. However, the sense of the meeting was that in the absence of a specific request from the Planning Board for comment, the Commission should hold off on taking a public position for the time being. Further discussion was tabled.



7. Publicity

- **No Items Submitted**

8. Adjournment

- On a motion by Matt, seconded by Sarah, Chair Allison adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Allison, Chair and Secretary *pro tempore*

If matters of business warrant it, the next meeting of the Lyme Conservation Commission will take place in person, and via a Zoom teleconference link at the Lyme Center Academy Building on Monday, November 6, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m.