

**Lyme Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 5, 2024 at 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.

Present: Lin Brown, Sue McKenzie, acting chair, Meg Sheehan, Blake Allison via Zoom, Sara Zahendra, alternate. Members of the public attending; John Biglow, Tim & Lynn Cook, Ray Clark, David Hewitt, Karl Furstenburg

1. Review and Approve 2023-12-04 Meeting Minutes

Motion made and seconded to approve minutes, roll call vote, all in favor.

** Matt Stevens joined the meeting.

2. Land Protection and Easements

- **Town Forest – Renew discussion of easement process.**

Tim Cook: supports the idea of a conservation easement on the town forest. Offers his assistance. UVLT holds an easement on Trout Pond.

What class road is Mud Turtle Pond Road? It is a Class VI Emergency Rd. as far as the Beaver Pond Trail.

Karl Furstenburg:

Discussed range of options for an easement-forever wild with leaving it natural
2012 ATM Mud Turtle Road-was declared class 6 emergency access which means town required to maintain roads for rescue.

Blake offered an overview of the Town Forest Management Plan v. Conservation Easement. Management Plan can include directives on timber management. Need to resolve extent to which timber management would be allowed in Town Forest, and Trout Pond. Trout Pond 2012/13 **management plan proposed** a timber harvest in **the property's** southwest corner, but then, due to **poor** market conditions and **the logistical costs of removing the timber it was** decided **the proposed harvest** made no sense. **As a result there has been** no timber harvest there in **more than ten** years. Logging/tree removal in the Town Forest **during the last two decades** has been considered salvage harvesting.

In 2010s the conservation commission recommended to the town meeting that there be a conservation **easement** on the Town Forest. **It was voted down at Annual Town Meeting.**

Current Select Board Chair Judy Brotman supports putting a conservation easement on the town forest. Some see **future** development pressures as a concern **that might motivate** the selectboard to allow private development in the town forest.

Land Protection and Easements, cont.

Town Forest has a management plan. It needs to be renewed.

Ray Clark: would the Conservation Commission initiate a questionnaire to get public input?

Blake agrees we want to get community involvement soon.

Dave Hewitt – supports conservation of Town Forest, suggests Historical Commission involvement.

The Conservation Commission members generally agreed to work informally to suggest a plan for education and outreach, forums, walks, educate about historic, ecological, recreational, involve families, etc. to help get out information on the pros and cons of a conservation easement on the town forest.

Blake signed out. Sara upgraded to voting member, from alternate.

- **Ecological Assessment(s) Update?** -- Consultant Rick Van de Poll is working on the Trout Pond Forest, starting field work in March 2024. May be doing Town Forest too, need to check with Blake.

3. Trails and Land Management

- **Friends of Post Pond Update.** Sue McKenzie gave an update on activities. Has 6 interested divers for the training course for milfoil management. Aquatic Specialties Inc. is a DES-certified entity to give this course; the divers could do the course in one day. There is a group working on boating regulations for Post Pond. Set up a planning meeting for harvesting-Feb. 26, 7 p.m. at Lyme School cafeteria.
- **Annual Meeting Article 12 – 2024 Milfoil Treatment Appropriation.** Meg moved to approve the requested \$9,435.00 appropriation. Seconded, roll call vote, all in favor, passed unanimously.
- **Chaffee Management Plan Update Review** –Matt explains we have a 20-year-old plan, adopted by commission in 2003, as written wasn't a management plan per say, was just a description of what exists on the site. Matt is taking the lead on updating the 2003 plan. Everyone is welcome to add their input into the plan.
- **Post Pond "East Meadow" Project** being done. Discussed this project as point of information for the CC. This pertains to a Jim Kennedy managed project. The site, map attached, is across the street from Post Pond. It may be that the Con Com was invited to make an offer on this property around 2010. At the time it had an absentee owner. The CC passed thinking the asking price was too high considering what the property offered. The CC did not do a "fine tooth" evaluation of flora and fauna species. The CC concluded that if the landowner's representative Mr. Kennedy wants CC information, we welcome more information upon which to opine.

4. Project and Application Review

- **No Items Submitted**

5. Outreach and Education

- **Annual “Winter” Walk** – Save the Date: **March 16, 2024 @ 1 p.m.** Send to ListServ and CommunityCares. Possibly at Town Forest, if we can figure out parking.
- **March Event with UVLT?** – Coordinate with UVLT’s Cassie Bernyk to see what might be planned? Ask Blake if we should combine with March 16 snowshoe walk.

6. Other Business

- **Land Use Change Tax** -- Status of receipts reporting process?

7. Publicity

- **No Items Submitted**

8. Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Meg Sheehan

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, March 4, beginning at 7:00 p.m.