

MINUTES

BECKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 21, 2013 6:30 PM

Becket Town Hall, Becket, MA 01223

Present: Bud Moylan, Purr McEwen, MartyWinters; Richard Pryor, ViceChair; Kathy Vsetecka, Commissioner and Agent; Kate Foley and Randy Christensen, Stantec.

Absent: Scott Morley, Chair

Richard Pryor, presiding; opens meeting at 6:33 PM with introduction.

1. **Minutes of December 20, 2012--no four members present from that meeting to vote**
Minutes of January 17, 2013 Motion by Purr to approve; second by Bud. Unanimous approval
2. **Notice of Intent Two State YMCA Chimney Corners Pond Hamilton Rd. Map 212 Lot 44 DEP #102-0387 Vegetation management, leveling of dam crest and areas of erosion as well as maintenance to the right training wall of the spillway**
 - Ms Foley and Mr. Christensen from Stantec represent the YMCA. The dam is approximately 28-foot high and 300-foot long and consists of an earthen embankment with a concrete spillway. The water from Rudd Pond goes into Chimney Corner's Pond and goes out an 18' spillway into Walker Brook. Several deficiencies were noted in an inspection/evaluation of the dam in 2011 by Root Engineering. The top of the dam has erosion and needs to be brought up to grade. The leveling is the first project so there is an even flow if it does overflow. There is a training wall on the back part of the spillway. There are some hairline cracks and Root Engineering believes water is being held behind the wall because the fill behind the wall is not quite adequate. There will be no interception of the water in the brook/no impacts to the brook.
 - Vegetation management is required by Office of Dam Safety. They like to have 20' of vegetation removed from the dam. The north side has a lot of shrubs. They propose using dab herbicide treatment and cutting to remove these. The herbicide will be glycosate based such as Rodeo. There was an explanation of the dab herbicide treatment. On the crest and southern side the trees will need to be removed--there will be no grubbing because they are so close to resource area. Most of the trees are hemlock and pines. Bud mentioned that it would be best to remove the trees before the thaw. Randy stated that the fill can't be done nor can the herbicide treatment in periods when there is frost in the ground. All impacts will be temporary in the riverfront and vegetated wetlands. The impacts will be changing from vegetation from woody to herbaceous.
 - An erosion control blanket will be put on top of the dam. A conservation mix will be used to reseed. There will be straw wattles placed on the toe of the slope to the training wall. Rich suggested putting straw wattles on the toe of the slope by the bridge. There would be continuous straw wattles along base. (Note the orange line on the plan.)

- All fill will be stored in the dining hall parking lot. All equipment will be stored and refueled there, also.
- As this is a general maintenance project there is no need for an Army Corp or Office of Dam Safety permit.
- Extra straw wattles are to be on hand and covered. The fill will also be covered with a tarp.
- There was a discussion of the bridge being strong enough for the equipment. There are several ways that the bridge can be made stronger. If culverts are used there would be impact to the resource area. Rich stated that this is a concern. A preconstruction meeting was discussed. Also, the fact that if we allowed resource area work without it being in the Notice of Intent and therefore not covered in the Order, we would have no enforcement capability. Randy stated that contractors' insurance companies would want safety. After discussion it was suggested that a special condition be made that any work done in the resource area would need to have an Amended Order.
- Kathy emphasized that the trees be cut when the ground is frozen especially as they are down a steep bank and skidder will be used.
- Also, the special condition in the permit for Big Robin re materials to be stored on site in case of severe weather was discussed in relation to this project.

Opened for public comment at 7:08; closed at 7:09 PM.

Motion by Purr to approve the Order of Conditions with the following conditions--

Becket Standard Conditions; the tree removal must be done when the ground is frozen; an amendment to the Order must be filed if there is reinforcement of the bridge that requires an fill or placement of culverts; the fill in the storage area must be covered; extra straw wattles are to be stored on site and covered for use in an emergency; straw wattles will be placed on the approximate toe of the slope of the dam as indicated by the orange line on the plan; prior to the denuding of the surface of the dam, poly or trap material and sand bag material is to be kept on site to prevent the impact of severe weather.

Unanimous approval

3. Administrative business

a. Reports from Eleanor Thomas of 301 Beech Tree Lane noted--Resource Area Restoration, Restoration Monitoring, Drawdown Monitoring

A request to release this property from the Enforcement Order that is on it was received. Kathy noted that a site visit will be done in the spring.

b. Report from Palmer Brook re drawdown noted

c. Call from Dave MacWilliams stating all the boards have been placed in the dam at Greenwater Pond

d. Parking of equipment on Rte 20

Kathy noted that MASS DOT was contacted about the storage of equipment across from the temporary access road to I 90 from Rte 20. No permit was given for this and this area is

adjacent to a large wetland area. Straw wattles have now been placed around the perimeter. Kathy will contact them in the spring and have them add silt fencing as the area is still being used.

e. Meeting on March 19th at BCC--"Improving Stream Crossings" for anyone interested.

f. Discussion about whether there is anything the Commission can do in memory of Martie Martin, a former Commissioner and recorder, who passed away this past January. The Commission truly appreciated all she did for the Commission. Condolences go out to her family.

Motion by Purr to adjourn; second by Bud Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen A. Vsetecka

Kathleen A. Vsetecka	Date
----------------------	------

Marty Winters	Date
---------------	------

Richard Pryor	Date
---------------	------

Purr McEwen	Date
-------------	------

Bud Moylan	Date
------------	------