

Minutes

Becket Conservation Commission

Becket Town Hall 557 Main St. Becket, MA

March 21, 2013

Present: Marty Winters, Laurel Burgwardt, Commissioners; Purr McEwen, Acting Chairperson and Commissioner; Kathy Vsetecka, Agent and Commissioner

Absent Bud Moylan, Scott Morley, Richard Pryor

Public: Linda Benton; Marc Bellaud, Aquatic Control Technology, Inc

Purr McEwen presiding

1. **Approval of minutes for December 20, 2012 and February 21, 2013 meetings.**

No quorum of commissioners who attended these meetings present. Continued

2. **Request for Determination of Applicability Pamela Bachrach/Indian Lake Association Map 218/219 Replenishment of beach sand on 4 beaches in Indian Lakes (Indian Lake Dam Beach, Forest Beach, Boulder Beach and Niskayuna Beach)**

The applicant was not present. Kathy stated that the Request was made for the four beaches. It included the type of sand (washed masonry), the way the sand would be delivered and spread, and the distance from the high water mark.

- Niskayuna Beach--a truck cannot unload the sand on the beach because of the wooden bridge. It will be carried by hand over the bridge and spread by hand. It will be an additional 3" to 6" of sand and spread no closer than 4' from the high water line.
- Forest Beach--a truck will unload the sand directly onto the beach backing down the wide path leading to the beach and will be spread by a garden tractor. It will be an additional 3 to 6" of sand and spread no closer than 4' from the high water line.
- Boulder Beach--A truck will unload the sand from the road. It will be spread with a garden tractor and hand rake and will be an additional 3" to 6" of sand. It will be no closer than 4' from the high water line.
- Indian Lake Dam Beach--This was to be done as the last two above. However, an email was received from Bob Gross of Indian Lake Association which stated that the engineering firm recommended that the sand be put down the embankment and into the water. Kathy stated that this means that two resource areas, bank and land under water, would also be affected. Also, that the amount of sand, how much would be in the water, and what material is on the bottom of lake is now all unknown. Also, a site visit isn't possible at this time. This would require a Notice of Intent.
- Kathy stated that the 4' from the beach was suggested because the Commission had required 4' for some beaches and 8' for another. Purr asked for more discussion. and comments.

- **Purr made a motion to issue a negative determination with Standard Becket Conditions for Forest Beach, Niskayuna Beach, and Boulder Beach but NOT Indian Lake Dam Beach. That would require an NOI.**

Second by Marty Unanimous approval

3. **Notice of Intent Alice and Philip Shabecoff 96 Plumb Rd. Map 407 Lot 12 DEP #102-0389 Pond dredging maintenance to return a private pond to its original configuration and remove nuisance vegetation for recreational purposes**

- The applicant asked for a continuance to the April 18, 2013 meeting as there are more permits pending; also, Kathy must recuse herself from the hearing as she is an abutter so there would be no quorum this evening.

Motion by Purr to continue the hearing until the April 18, 2013 meeting with the applicant's consent. Second by Marty. Unanimous approval

4. **Administrative business**

- a. Linda Bennett asked about the regulations re building of a house within 100' or less of a lake. She and her husband own a lot abutting a long and narrow lot where a house is being proposed. Purr explained the regulations concerning buffer zones and the difference between a buffer zone and a lake, river, intermittent stream and wetlands. Ms Bennett wanted to know if they would be notified when and if construction was to be done. Purr and Kathy both told her that as an abutter within 100' of the property, they would be notified by the applicant.
- b. Marc Bellaud of Aquatic Control Technology, Inc. Mr. Bellaud came to present an update on the Sherwood Greens permit for treatment of Silver Shield and Golden Fawn as well as to show the new growth in all the ponds in the Greens. There was a July inspection; 3 lakes were treated in 2008. Golden Fawn is still doing well. Silver Shield did well for several years; Little and Big Long Bow are beyond the point where diving will take care of the weeds. Neither of these has been treated since 2006 and they did well for a few years. Now they are covered with bladderwort, large pond weed and floating water shield. All ponds still have phragmites. The treatment of these with glycosate is working well. After the phragmites die, it is cut back. Then it is removed in the winter. Taking the thatch out helps the native plants come back.

There is a new herbicide, Habitat, registered in MA similar to Rodeo but with a different mode of action. This may be used in the future treatments.

Purr asked if hydroraking would be good a good option for the bladderwort as opposed to chemical treatment in Little Long Bow. Marc responded that it is more costly and the bladderwort would rebound more quickly. Hydroraking is basically a seasonal control.

Marc stated that the Sherwood Greens Association is asking the Commission whether it would be best to amend the current Order of Conditions which was issued in 2008 and amended in 2010 or to file a new Notice of Intent. All that is approved in the current Order is the treatment of the phragmites. Thus, the Order would need to be amended for the

chemical treatment of the other ponds. Kathy asked about cost difference and stated that a lot would be changed in the original Order. With an Amended Order abutters need to be notified just as in a new filing of a new NOI and that there are no fees for either. A lake management plan is in the original Order and one would need to be in a new NOI. It was also stated that there would be more years in the new Order than in an amended one. Marc stated that main additional cost would be the filling out of the paperwork. It was decided that anew NOI would be best and that the application would be submitted for a May hearing as there should be a quorum then to vote on it (Richard Pryor will have to recuse himself).

Marc reminded the Commission that a report had been submitted for Sherwood Forest and that more work was done there last year. He will notify when and if more treatment is needed.

Kathy reminded Marc that the applicant now has to submit their legal ad to the Country Journal and bring a copy to the hearing. Also, in answer to his question, the Commission would like to have 2 copies of the NOI 2-3 weeks in advance of the hearing so that a site visit can be scheduled and the Notices reviewed by individual commissioners.

- c. Laurel had a question from the Board of Health. There was an approval in 1999 for a permit to install a septic system on Trail Circle. The lot is on Golden Fawn. Ginger, BOH chairperson, was under the impression that this permit was still good as it was issued after 1995. This was questioned by John and Laurel (BOH). Both Purr and Kathy explained that a permit is good for 3 years unless a special condition is added to the Order or an Extension Order has been issued.

Purr made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM Second by Marty Unanimous approval

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen Vsetecka