

MINUTES
Becket Conservation Commission
Becket Town Hall 557 Main Street
6:30 PM March 20, 2014

Commissioners Present: Scott Morley, Chair; Richard Pryor, Vice Chair; Purr McEwen; Marty Winters; Shepley Evans, Agent

Commissioners Absent: Bud Moylan, Laurel Burgwardt

Members of the Public: Marc Volk of Foresight Land Services; Nick Hopkins of Mass DOT; Barbara Wacholder of Indian Lake Association; Jeanne Pryor; and Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates LLC.

Meeting opened at 6:35 PM with Mr. Morley presiding.

1. **Approval of minutes of the January 16, 2014 meeting.**

Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. McEwen; second by Mr. Winters. Unanimous approval.

2. **Notice of Intent, Karl & Jane Brunhuber, 63 Lady Lucille, Map 215 Lot 188, DEP #102-0396, Replacement of small rip-rap stone in the area of lake access with a wooden retaining wall.**

Marc Volk of Foresight Land Services presenting. The owners have been getting erosion along the shore at their lake access point and wish to stabilize the situation. It is proposed to use a small excavator to move the stone and other material, replacing same after the wooden bulkhead retaining wall is constructed. An erosion control curtain with a weighted lower edge will be installed approx. 4 feet in from the edge of the lake in the fall, when the work is to be done.

Open to public comment at 6:48 PM. No comments

Motion by Ms. McEwen to close the public comment time. Second by Mr. Pryor. Unanimous approval

Public input closed at 6:49 PM.

Motion by Ms. McEwen to approve the Notice of Intent, contingent upon the applicant securing any other permits or permissions required. Becket Standard Conditions will apply, and Special Conditions are to include:

A) that any machinery used on site be refueled and/or parked when not in service on level ground in or near the driveway by the house. B) that any stored material be enclosed in silt fence and be securely covered with a tarp. Second by Mr. Pryor. Unanimous approval.

3. **Notice of Intent, Eleanor Thomas, 201 Beech Tree Lane, Map 407 Lots 72 & 73, DEP # 102-0398, Dredging and Invasive Species removal from a man-made pond.**

Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates LLC presenting. Eleanor Thomas's pond is approximately 15,000 sq. ft. in size. It is an impoundment originally created by damming a water course, and it has been substantially silted in over the last few years, particularly during major storm events. In addition to the siltation, there has grown up a significant infestation of Phragmites on the west shore of the pond. The proposed pond improvement project will dredge about two thirds of the pond area, removing an estimated 374 cubic yards of sediment, which will be stored and de-watered in a silt fence enclosed area in a buffer zone area behind the garage.

The work is envisioned to be accomplished in three phases:

Phase I : will draw down the pond, pumping the dregs at the deepest point, so that dredging can be accomplished in the dry. Pumped dregs will be put through a temporary sediment trap adjacent to the outlet. A coffer dam will be installed at the inlet and a temporary sediment trap will insure no additional sediment will be delivered to the pond. A pumping system will bypass the pond during the project.

Phase II : Dredging will be done on Swamp Mats with a big excavator between July 1st and August 31st. Dredged material will be stored in a silt fenced impoundment behind the garage additionally protected and contained within a straw wattle barrier. This dredged material, estimated to be about 374 cubic yards, will be turned periodically and composted so it can be used as a soils additive in the future. In addition to the dredging, there is about 216 sq. ft. of Phragmites growing on the west shore of the pond. These plants and the earth they are growing in will be removed by the excavator and composted along with the dredged material. At all times, refueling, overnight parking and equipment storage will be accomplished only in the driveway turn-around near the house.

Phase III: There will be a 5 year follow-on monitoring program to track the composting and invasive weed control elements of the project. Initially a monitoring report will be produced for the Federal permit granting authority and the Conservation Commission for years 1 & 2. At the end of the growing season (probably November) in years 3, 4 and 5, a report including photographs of wetlands, weed control areas, silt fence and dewatering/composting areas will be presented to the Conservation Commission. A similar report focusing importantly on the composting operation will be presented to the May meeting of the Commission until composting is completed.

At Ms. Stockman's suggestion, a Motion was made by Ms. McEwen to continue the hearing to the April 17th meeting. Second by Mr. Winters. Unanimous approval.

4. **RDA by Mass DOT , Interstate Rt 90 ROW for spraying Glyphosate for weed control in selective areas of guardrails, bridge aprons, sign and delineator posts and other structures.** Nick Hopkins, District Environmental Engineer presenting.

A discussion ensued concerning the standard Mass State Herbicide Regulations, 333 CMR 11.04 (3), and the Commission noted that it was being requested to confirm the accuracy of the mapped wetland and priority & estimated habitat boundaries. The commission consensus was that this confirmation was for the purposes of the 2014 to 2018 state Vegetation Management Plan only. The Commission consensus was also that its confirmation is contingent upon the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife approval of the said Vegetation Management Plan.

Public comment was called for by Chairman Morley. There was none.

Ms. McEwen moved to close public comment. Mr. Winters Seconded the motion. Unanimous Approval.

Motion by Ms. McEwen to issue a positive determination for the purposes of the 2014 – 2018 Vegetation Management Plan only, and contingent on the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife approval of said Vegetation Management Plan. Second by Mr. Winters. Unanimous Approval.

5. **RDA by Indian Lake Association, Boulder Beach , Map 219 Lot 227. Expansion of Boulder Beach.** Barbara Wacholder presenting.

The Indian Lake Association proposed to clear an area approximately 25 ft. by 25 ft. taking down trees and removing brush and stumps to the east of the existing beach, toward the existing boat dock. Sand will be brought in to cover the cleared area. The new beach area will set back from the shoreline. Access to the lake will remain unchanged, as will the existing dock and float locations.

Motion by Ms. McEwen to issue a Negative Determination #3. Seconded by Mr. Winters. In addition to Becket standard conditions, Special Conditions include: A) A limit of work fence or row of staked straw bales or wattles is to be installed 10 feet from the edge of the lake prior to the work beginning. B) No debris or trees are to be allowed to fall into the lake. C) Once work begins, all debris is to be removed from the area daily. D) All fueling and parking of equipment is to take place in the parking area, away from the lake. E) The final elevation of the new beach area is to be no higher than the 10 foot wide undisturbed set back area between the lake and the limit of work fence or straw bales.

Miscellaneous:

- The Commission discussed the idea of having the new Conservation Agent, Shepley Evans, appointed to also serve as a member of the Conservation Commission, as did his predecessor, Kathy Vsetecka. Mr. Pryor will coordinate with the Selectboard.
- The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), in partnership with the Mass Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) will be providing important core education for Conservation Commissioners in Berkshire County on the Saturdays of March 29th and April 5th in Pittsfield. The courses for both days are free, thanks to a grant from the Berkshire Environmental Endowment, an affiliate of The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.
- The Commission periodically gets urgent last minute requests for Certificates of Compliance for attorneys' offices seeking to close real estate transactions. The Commission will look into developing a tracking system to enable reminding permit holders to file for Certificates as soon as permitted work is completed.
- The Becket Community Preservation Committee (CPC) requires a member of the Conservation Commission to serve on the Committee. Mr. Pryor has volunteered.
- A discussion of the permitting requirements for invasive plant removal efforts along the trails following the East and West Branches of the Westfield River concluded that a Request for Determination would suffice for smaller projects involving all hand work and no motorized equipment. For larger projects and for projects involving motorized equipment, a Notice of Intent should be filed with the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Shepley W. Evans
Conservation Agent