

MINUTES
Becket Conservation Commission
Becket Town Hall 557 Main Street
6:30 PM April 17, 2014

Commissioners Present: Scott Morley, Chair; Richard Pryor, Vice Chair; Marty Winters; Bud Moylan, Laurel Burgwardt; Shepley Evans, Agent

Commissioners Absent: Purr McEwen

Members of the Public: Mercedes Gallagher, Coleen Cox & Tim Fogarty

Meeting opened at 6:37 PM with Mr. Morley presiding.

1. **Approval of minutes of the March 20th meeting.**

**Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Pryor; second by Mr. Winters.
Unanimous approval.**

2. **Notice of Intent, DEP File #102-0398 continued from March 20, 2014**

Eleanor Thomas – 301 Beech Tree Lane – Map 407 Lots 72+73
Dredging and invasive species removal from a man-made pond.

Motion by Mr. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Winters, to continue to the May meeting.

Unanimous approval.

3. **Request for Determination of Applicability – Center Pond Weed Project**

Mercedes Gallagher presenting. The project involves hand removal of invasive aquatic plants from Center Pond, its tributaries and bordering lands within the Center Pond Watershed. Discussion included a recommendation that where work was to be done on private property, permission be sought in advance and records of permissions granted should be kept.

Motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Pryor, to issue Negative Determinations #2 & #3 with a condition requiring record keeping of permissions granted.

Unanimous approval.

4. Coleen Cox and Tim Fogarty brought to the Commission their concern over a substantial amount of water ponding on the front of their property at 2699 Jacobs Ladder Road just east of the intersection where Route 8 joins Route 20. The Commission discussed possible causes of the ponding and possible solutions, noting that the water had evaporated and/or percolated away and that, because the area did not appear to be wetland or bufferzone, the Commission did not have regulatory jurisdiction.

5. **Request for Determination of Applicability – Westfield River Wild & Scenic Advisory Committee.** Mercedes Gallagher presenting. The project involves the management of invasive plant species with manual methods including small hand-held tools and power equipment along the East and West Branches of the Westfield River, with permission from landowners. Discussion included the necessity of keeping records of permissions granted and a need for annual reports of progress to the Conservation Commission.
Motion by Mr Moylan, seconded by Mr. Winters to issue Negative Determinations #2 & #3 with conditions requiring record keeping of permissions granted and yearly progress reporting to the Commission at year end.
Unanimous approval.

6. **Motion by Mr. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Winters to adjourn the meeting.**
Unanimous approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shepley W. Evans
Conservation Agent