

MINUTES
Becket Conservation Commission
Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street
6:30 PM August 21, 2014

Commissioners Present: Scott Morley, Chair; Richard Pryor, Vice Chair; Marty Winters; Shepley Evans.

Commissioners Absent: Bud Moylan; Laurel Burgwardt

Members of the Public: Jeanne Pryor, Michael Lennon, Richard Miller, Robert Conry, Gail Conry, Joan Monroe, Charles Timman, Simone Natale of Berkshire Engineering, Nancy Burg, Mike Burg, Jeanne Morano, Julia Maynard, El. L Fitz Simmons, Carl Rosenstein, Lee Blatt, Denise Healon, Cindy Delpapa, Colleen OConnor, Walter Margeles, Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering, Mercedes Gallagher, Meredyth Babcock, Milt Reiss.

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

1. **Approval of minutes of the July 17, 2014 meeting.**

Motion by Mr. Morley, seconded by Mr. Winters to approve the minutes of the July 17th meeting as circulated. Unanimous approval.

2. **Request for Determination of Applicability.** Robert Conry of 45 Tecumseh Drive, Map 211 Lot 27. Replacing existing walkway to the front of the house and patio at the back of the house with new "Goshen Stone" walkway and patio. Repairing stone walls and filling gaps at the lakefront rip-rap to prevent erosion. Silt fence backed up with straw wattles a short distance from the water's edge will stop any erosion into the lake during construction. Most all work to be done by hand. If a small excavator is needed to adjust the placement of larger rip-rap, applicant will call the Conservation Agent to review site conditions and insure adequate erosion controls are in place. Work will start at the waterfront and proceed up grade toward the driveway.

Motion by Mr. Morley, seconded by Mr. Winters for a Negative Determination #2, Standard Becket Conditions, and, if an excavator is needed, applicant will call the Conservation Agent to make sure all necessary measures are being taken to protect the lake from erosion. Unanimous approval.

3. **Request for Determination of Applicability.** Charles & Rica Timman of 3529 Jacobs Ladder Road, fronting on Greenwater Pond, Map 202 Lot 49. Stump-grinding stumps and roots in the upper side garden area and beside the side porch, removing woody debris and covering altered areas with topsoil and grass seed.

Motion by Mr. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Morley to issue Negative Determination #3 with standard Becket conditions. Unanimous approval.

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4. **Notice of Intent.** Aquatic Control Technology (ACT) for Sherwood Forest Lakes District. Cutting and harvesting nuisance native aquatic plant growth to maintain desirable open water habitat in the several Sherwood Forest Ponds, Map 216. Sherwood Forest has purchased a small mechanical harvester to manage the vegetation in several of the Sherwood Forest Ponds. The representative of ACT reviewed the history of aquatic weed management in the Forest, including the composting of vegetation harvested from the ponds. This application is for a continuing harvesting operation in future years when the Lake District would come to the Commission annually to notify which areas they were planning to harvest.

Mr. Morley opened the meeting for public comment. Ms. Fitzsimmons, a member of the Lakes District, commented that weeds harvested from the lakes should be composted an appropriate distance from the lakes and that the Lake District had a trained equipment operator. It was agreed that composted material should not be used on gardens or flower beds no closer than 50 feet from the lakes. **Motion by Mr. Evans to close the public comment period, seconded by Mr. Winters. Unanimous approval.**

Motion by Mr. Morley, seconded by Mr. Pryor, that cutting operations be approved with standard Becket conditions and be summarized with a year-end report on cutting and composting on or before 12/31 with pictures, please. Fueling of harvesting equipment to be accomplished at least 100 feet away from the lake or wetland on the equipment trailer. Bouys to be placed by Aquatic Control Technology or other agents to show limit of work, to be inspected and approved by Conservation Agent prior to harvesting. Composted plant material not to be used on flower beds or gardens within 50 feet of lake(s). Harvested plant material to be removed from the lake(s) the same day cut, and dewatered up to 3 days before being moved to approved composting area(s). All composting sites are to be pre-approved by the Conservation Agent. Unanimous approval.

5. **Request for Determination of Applicability.** Mike Kulig of Berkshire Engineering for David Neelon. Property at 193 Long Bow Lane West, Map 213 Lot 75. Subsurface disposal system upgrade in the 100 ft. buffer zone of Long Bow Lake. Discussion of the location of the silt fence. Change to silt fence location made and noted on a plan of the system, initialed by Simone Natale of Berkshire Engineering, to be made part of the permanent record. **Motion by Mr. Morley, seconded by Mr. Winters, to issue a Negative Determination #3 with Standard Becket Conditions. Unanimous Approval.**

6. **Request for Determination of Applicability.** Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering for William Cullen (WMC HOLDINGS LLC). Property at 263 Tyringham Road, Map 404 Lot 49.4. Cleaning up slash and downed trees remaining after logging. A portion of the work will take place in the 200 foot Riverfront Resource Area of a perennial stream. There was a discussion of the need to actually see the area and woody remains in question.
Motion by Mr. Morley, seconded by Mr. Winters, to continue to the 9/18/2014 meeting and to schedule a site visit at 6PM on 9-5-2014.
Unanimous approval.

7. **Ratification of an Emergency Certification** issued on August 4, 2014 for installation of flow control devices in a beaver dam +/- 2000 feet downstream of property at 194 Robinwood West.
Motion by Mr. Pryor, seconded by Mr. Winters, to ratify.
Unanimous approval.

8. **Public Comment / Question Time**

Meredyth Babcock: disagrees with the use of herbicides in lakes and ponds.

Milt Reiss: Disapproves of DCR "getting a pass" to treat Buckley Dunton Lake with herbicides.

Bob Hirsch: Recognizes that DCR could withdraw from lake management if the community turned out and was negative about the use of herbicides.

Colleen O'Connor: Wants the Clean Water Act enforced without political influence or emotion.

Julia Maynard: Concerned about Human Health effects of herbicide use in Buckley Dunton Lake.

Linda Gursky: Can just anybody apply to get rid of invasive or annoying plants?

Lee Blatt: The cove treated with herbicides was flooded when the state built the Buckley Dunton Lake Dam. There are two coves off Buckley Dunton Lake, the North Cove and the South Cove. The North Cove is untreated and eutrophying with regularly occurring algae blooms. The South Cove is healthy, with herons, otters and myriad other wildlife. He used to row a single shell on the lake, but the weeds in the south cove discouraged him and he stopped.

Carl Rosenstein: Mr. Rosenstein, of #30 Wishing Way has been a property owner near Buckley Dunton Lake for 37 years. The conditions of the north and south coves change every year, so it's hard to draw any conclusions from annual observations. Mr. Rosenstein wants someone to look into the question of whether or not he is an abutter of the Lake. He believes he is and has submitted maps to the Assessors Office in this regard.

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Colleen O'Connor: There is an association of property owners who have deeded access to Buckley Dunton Lake, and Ms. O'Connor believes that the association was not notified of the herbicide application along with other abutters.

Jean Pryor: We need to make sure that, in the future, all abutters are notified.

Motion by Scott Morley, seconded by Richie Pryor, to close public comment time.

Unanimous approval.

Motion by Richard Pryor, seconded by Shep Evans, to adjourn the meeting.
Unanimous approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shepley W. Evans
Conservation Agent