

MINUTES
Becket Conservation Commission
Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street
6:30 PM January 15, 2015

Commissioners Present: Scott Morley, Chair; Marty Winters; Cindy Delpapa; Karen Karlberg; Shepley Evans, Agent.

Commissioners Absent: Laurel Burgwardt; Richard Pryor

Members of the Public: Robert Denley; David Scarpitti of Mass DFW; Mercedes Gallagher; Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering.

Meeting opened at 6:41 PM with Mr. Morley presiding.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of meeting of December 18, 2014**
Motion by Mr. Morley, seconded by Ms. Delpapa to accept the minutes of December 18, 2014 as distributed. Unanimous approval.
- 2. Request for Determination of Applicability. Raina Weber of Integrated Landscape Design for Debra Hoffman, property at 56 Frederick Court, Map 203 Lot 18.3.**
Removal of nine Red Maple trees and numerous saplings, pruning of many other trees, and planting the understory with native ferns and shrubs within the Buffer Zone of Yokum Pond. Discussion of site visit and the importance of tipped up tree roots as habitat.
Motion by Ms. Karlburg, seconded by Mr. Winters, to issue a Negative Determination #3 with standard conditions and added special conditions as follows:
A) Retention of the tipped up tree roots in the Buffer Zone in perpetuity;
B) Monitor and remove invasive plants for three growing seasons in pursuit of a 75% survival of planted material. C) Conduct a site visit with the Commission each September for three seasons and a deliver a written report on plant survival, by species, to the Commission each November for three growing seasons, including annual photo documentation of progress starting in early 2015.
Unanimous approval.
- 3. Notice of Intent DEP # 102-0407. David Scarpitti of Mass DFW, property on the west side of Johnson Road at the intersection with the Lee-Westfield Road, Map 406 Lot 12.** Timbering and other habitat management activities to benefit species dependent upon the availability of early successional habitat, including specifically the New England Cottontail. Extended discussion of the benefits of removing the overstory of mature trees from both upland and wetland areas to facilitate the rapid growth of new young vegetation for food and cover. Numerous seed and nut producing species such as Cherry, Beech, a few Oaks and Pines will be retained to produce food as well. Discussion of the potential for invasive species to spread, particularly Japanese Barberry and Floribunda Rose, and the need for close monitoring and treatment of invasives.

Motion by Ms Delpapa, seconded by Mr. Winters, to issue an Order of Conditions approving the project with Becket Standard Conditions and the following Special Conditions: A) An annual written report to the Commission on the issue of invasive species monitoring and control due in October, before the October Conservation Commission meeting, for five consecutive growing seasons following completion of the tree cutting. B) Tree cutting and hauling with heavy equipment to be done only when the ground is frozen.

Unanimous approval.

4. **Notice of Intent DEP # 102-0406. Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering for John & Patricia Dicke, property at 266 Tyne Road, Map 203 Lots 52 & 53.** Construction of a new single family house, septic system,, well and driveway in the Buffer Zone of various nearby vegetated wetlands. The project will involve the demolition of a small cottage and de-commissioning of non-conforming septic system and well. There was extended discussion about a culvert under Tyne Road which is off the subject property, but which has a history of being washed out in big storms because it is under-sized. An intermittent stream which carries storm-water from the Tyne Swamp area runs past the subject property and feeds into the culvert.

Motion by Ms. Karlberg, seconded by Mr. Winters, to issue an Order of Conditions approving the project with Standard Becket Conditions and Special Conditions as follows: A) The driveway culvert must be kept open and free running, clear of all debris and stones 10 feet upstream and downstream of the driveway.

B) There will be no impervious surface installed on the driveway.

Unanimous approval.

5. The Commission reviewed a cutting plan for land on the east side of Werden Road just south of the Mass Turnpike. No action taken.
6. The Commission read and discussed the annual report from Accord Engineering on the annual draw-down of Palmer Brook Lake at the Berkshire Fishing Club. It was noted that the Order of Conditions issued in 2003 expires in 2016. Mr. Evans volunteered to send a letter to the engineering firm noting the expiration date and advising that the Commission may wish to re-examine the draw-down methodology and analysis.
7. The Commission read and discussed briefly a letter and one-page flyer on the impacts of lakeshore development on aquatic ecosystems from Mr. Ray Bressette, a senior at Westfield State University. Ms. Delpapa volunteered to drop Mr. Bressette a note acknowledging his letter.

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8. The recently revised Wetlands Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) have arrived and are available for inspection in the Conservation office. New forms are available too.

**Motion by Mr. Morley, seconded by Mr. Winters to adjourn.
Unanimous approval.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shepley Evans, Conservation Agent