

MINUTES
Becket Conservation Commission
Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street
6:30 PM, September 17, 2015

Commissioners Present: Scott Morley; Richard Pryor; Alison Dixon; Karen Karlberg; Cindy Delpapa; Shepley Evans, Agent.

Members of the Public: Emily & Ty Stockman of Stockman Associates; T.J.Crowe; Purr McEwen of the Yokum Pond Association; Randall Christensen of Stantec Consulting Services; Steve Turner of Becket Chimney Corners; Michelle Gersen; Marcia Parnell.

Meeting opened at 6:34 PM with Chairman Scott Morley presiding.

1. **Approval of the Minutes of meeting of August 20, 2015.**
Motion by Ms. Dixon, seconded by Mr. Evans, to accept the minutes of August 20, 2015 as amended and corrected. Unanimous approval.
2. **Response to enforcement letter of June 15, 2015** concerning possible wetlands violation on Crowe property on Werden Road, Map 205 Lot 88. Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates for T.J.Crowe. Ms. Stockman acknowledged that a trap rock and gravel roadway had been constructed through a wetland and that she would be preparing a restoration plan for the next Conservation Commission meeting on October 15th. **Motion by Mr. Morley, seconded by Ms. Dixon to continue the matter to October 15, 2015 at 6:30 PM following a site visit by the Commission earlier on October 15th. Unanimous approval.**
3. **Notice of Intent** – Randall Christensen of Stantec Consulting Services for Root Engineering and Becket Chimney Corners YMCA, property at Chimney Corners Pond, Smith Pond Dam, Hamilton Road, Map 212 Lot 44. A Geotechnical investigation and sub-surface visual inspection of the Smith Pond Dam to identify structural or maintenance deficiencies per Mass Dam Safety Regulations (302 CMR 10.00) The project will involve a series of geotechnical borings along the crest of the dam and two test pits and a limited three foot drawdown of the lake for visual inspection of the dam. **Motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to approve the drawdown between November 1st and April 1st per Mass DFW drawdown policy and guidance. Unanimous approval.**
4. **Request for Term Extension of Order of Conditions DEP File # 102-0387.** Randall Christensen of Stantec Consulting Services for Two States YMCA requesting a one year extension of the term of subject Order from 2-17-2016 to 2-17-2017 to allow time to complete stabilization of the “training Wall” of the Chimney Corners Pond Dam.
Motion by Mr. Pryor, seconded by Ms. Karlberg, to grant the one year extension of the term of the Order of Conditions, DEP File # 102-0387. Unanimous approval.

5. **Request for Determination of Applicability** – Purr McEwen for the Yokum Pond Association, property at Yokum Pond Road and Tyne Road, Map 203. **Continued from 8-20-2015.** The Association is seeking to continue its successful annual program of having its trained diver(s) picking and removing by hand any Eurasian Milfoil found anywhere in Yokum Pond.
Motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Pryor, to approve and to issue a Negative Determination #2 with standard Becket Conditions. Unanimous approval.

6. **Request for Determination of Applicability** – Purr McEwen for the Yokum Pond Association, property at Yokum Pond Road and Tyne Road, Map 203. **Continued from 8-20-2015.** The Association is seeking to continue its practice of having its trained diver(s) selectively picking and removing a limited amount of Large Leaf Pond Weed annually from Yokum Pond with the intention of thinning the Pond Weed and promoting a more diverse mix of aquatic plants in the identified six areas of most intense Pond Weed dominance.
Motion by Mr. Pryor, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to approve the hand pulling of Pond Weed and issue a Negative Determination #2 with standard Becket Conditions and the following Special Conditions: A) Following each season of hand pulling, the Association will send to the Commission an annual diver's report on the relative success of thinning Pond Weed and the relative increase in diversity of aquatic plants identified in the six mapped areas of Pond Weed dominance. B) Diver(s) are to be instructed that in each of the six mapped Pond Weed areas they are to leave no less 50% of the pond weed plants in place. Approved by a vote of 5 to 1.

Miscellaneous:

- A. Mr. Evans reviewed the upcoming free training classes being offered for Conservation Commission members by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission at their offices in Pittsfield. These courses are funded by the Berkshire Environmental Endowment, an affiliate of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The curriculum and presenters are supplied by the Mass Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC).
- B. Mr. Evans updated the Commission on the status of the enforcement letter sent to the Jacob's Hollow Association this past summer.
- C. **Mr. Evans nominated Mr. Pryor to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Commission and to moderate Commission Meetings in Mr. Morley's absence. Unanimous Approval.**

Motion by Ms. Karlberg, seconded by Ms. Dixon, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shepley Evans
Conservation Agent