

MINUTES
Becket Conservation Commission
Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street
May 10, 2016

Commissioners Present: Alison Dixon, Chair; Barbara Brand, Cindy Delpapa; Karen Karlberg, Rebecca Perry, Richard Pryor. Also present Becket Conservation Agent Mallory Larcom

Commissioners Absent: None

Members of the Public: Linda Benton, Rob Benton, Ron Birrell, Stephen Boohen, Shannon Boomsma, Ed Gibson, Elizabeth Goodman, Douglas Ingram, Robert Ronzio, Sandra Saywood, Justin Soules, Alan Strassler, Barb Wacholder.

Meeting opened at 6:31 PM with Ms. Dixon presiding. Meeting statement made and members introduced.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 19 April, 2016 meeting.

Motion made and seconded to approve the 19 April, 2016 minutes with minor typos corrected, (Brand/Perry). MSV. 1 abstention

2. Request for a Determination of Applicability for a garage addition at 2776 Jacobs Ladder Road:

Mr. Soules, the property owner, wishes to add a 24' by 30' garage to an existing house. Agent Larcom visited the property and reported it was relatively flat landscape with an obvious break in slope to the wetland resource area. The parcel has not been altered since the original house construction in the 1990's. The commissioners engaged in a discussion about the use of a wetland delineation from a different plan. Agent Larcom recommended using the 137' elevation line, as this represents the break in slope, as the delineation line. Measuring from this contour line puts the closest edge of the garage 70' from the resource area's outer edge. Agent Larcom reminded the proponent this RDA covers only the garage. If a driveway expansion is considered in the future, this additional work would need to come before the Conservation Commission. Motion made for a negative #3 determination for the construction of a 24' by 30' garage at 2776 Jacobs Ladder Road with Becket Special Conditions and the following additional conditions:

1. The limit of work will be 50' from the wetland delineation line (137' contour),
2. the Becket Conservation Agent will inspect the silt fence before work begins,
3. the final plan, as approved by the building inspector, will be provided to the Becket Conservation Agent before work begins, (Pryor/Brand). MSV passed unanimously.

3. Request for a Determination of Applicability for the hand pulling of plants from Greenwater Pond:

The original (negative and expired) RDA required the matter come before the Commission every three years. Mr. Ingram, representing Greenwater Pond Association, provided a map detailing the location of and the species type of aquatic vegetation in the pond, (the black and white copy did not allow one to discern species type). The target is to thin approximately 50% of the large leaf pondweed, (about 70% of the aquatic vegetation) and non-native Eurasian milfoil, (about 30%) using divers to pull from June 1st through September 1st annually. Motion made to issue a negative #2 determination for the hand-pulling of approximately 50% of the standing plant coverage in Greenwater Pond. The harvested plants will be removed daily and disposed of in uplands away from waterways, (Karlberg/Pryor). MSV passed unanimously.

4. Request for a Determination of Applicability concerning the removal of a birch tree at 138 Greenwater Drive:

Agent Larcom and Chair Dixon visited the site. The mature birch, located about 25 ft from the pond, is leaning over the house. The owner intends to remove the tree using non-mechanical methods. Motion made to issue a negative #3 determination for the non-mechanical removal of the mature birch tree adjacent to the house at 138 Greenwater Drive. The tree stump shall not be removed and a replacement tree should be planted in the general area, (Perry/Pryor). MSV passed unanimously.

5. Request for Determination of Applicability to construct wooden steps adjacent to Indian Lake to an existing seasonal dock off Algeria Road, (Map 219, Lot 230).

Commissioners visited the site. Proponent's representative, Ron Birrell, provided a brochure about the wood product to be used for the stairs. The material is an *Environmental Preferred Product*. The steps will be anchored to helical posts – the closest post will be about 3' from the lake. A straw waddle will be placed between the work area and the lake. Motion made to issue a negative #3 determination for the construction of wooden steps adjacent to Indian Lake at Algeria Road, (Map 219, Lot 230) with becket Special Conditions and the requirement to install and maintain a straw waddle barrier between the active construction area and Indian Lake prior to the work beginning, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV passed unanimously.

6. Request for Determination of the addition of an aluminum dock and ramp at 663 Seneca Drive, (Map 219, Lot 225) over the waters of Indian Lake.

The owner wishes to install a seasonal aluminum frame dock, with support legs, in a configuration of a 5' by 5' ramp to a 15' by 5' walkway to a 10' by 10' dock, (two 5' by 10' docks secured together). Commissioner Karlberg was not successful in getting a response from the manufacture concerning the composition of the composite decking boards. The country of origin of the composite decking was also not known. Motion made to issue a negative #2 determination to install a seasonal dock and ramps at 663 Seneca Drive, Map 219, Lot 225, (Perry/Karlberg). MSV, 3 in favor and 2 opposed.

7. Notice of Noncompliance for 88 Nottingham Court, (Map 216. Lot 753) for filling and grading without a permit.

Commissioners visited the site. Attorney Goodman, representing Mr. Ronzio and Ms. Searles (landowner), requested a continuation to allow the consulting firm (Hill Engineering) hired by Mr. Ronzio sufficient time to begin assessment. Currently there is no resource area delineation or a topographic survey though Mr. Ronzio did provide a plot plan, (dated 5/19/2008) showing the original parcel and subsequently acquired lots. Atty Goodman produced an expired OOC from 1992-95 related to the building of the house. No Certificate of Compliance was requested relative to this OOC. Mr. Ronzio reported that the Commission visited the site around 1999 or 2000 in regards to the acquired parcel on the opposite side of the house. Mr. Ronzio further explained the driveway was built in the '2000's' though the project was not brought before the Commission. Atty Goodman asked if the Commission wished to have the resource area delineated as it currently exists. Commissioners were concerned a delineation of current conditions would not reflect the historic limit of resource areas. There were also concerns about the dumping of organic and other material in the wetlands downgradient of the stone wall and excavation associated with a drainage pipe. Commission agreed the clean-up work should not begin until an assessment has been completed. A question was raised about the source of the fill material used at the site. Mr. Ronzio, at the site visit, stated the majority of the fill came from Donovan Corp. but there were other sources. Mr. Ronzio's neighbor, Sandra Sayward, requested an opportunity to speak. She stated filling of the area in question has been on-going since she moved in ten and a half years prior and noted fill material did come from a variety of sources. She would like to see the fill material tested given its proximity to the lake- a recreational area for many homeowners. Commission would like an estimate of the amount of fill at the site. Motion made to issue an Enforcement Order to Robert Ronzio of 88 Nottingham Court requiring the submission of a Notice of Intent for work to restore impacted wetland resource area to be submitted to the Becket Conservation Commission no later than 24 June, 2016, (Pryor/Perry. MSV passed unanimously.

'8. Request for a 3 year extension of OOC- Palmer Brook Corporation for a drawdown (Order of Conditions #102-257).

This request is continued from the April meeting. Several representatives from the Palmer Brook Corporation (PBC) were present. Mr. Thorpe of Accord Engineering detailed the proposed amendments to the existing OOC which included specifications for the length and depth of the drawdown, a deadline for spring refill of 1 April except in instances of drought conditions, and methodology for estimating the flow rate below the dam during refill in order to maintain a flow no less than the August low flow median. The proponents representative explained fish studies are hampered by the low conductivity in the waterways which makes electrofishing ineffective. It was agreed that the proposed amendments include a provision for the assessment of macroinvertebrates in Palmer Brook. The annual assessment of the resource areas is proposed to extend downstream of the dam to the edge of the Palmer Brook

Corporation lands. Ms. Walkover spoke to the Commission expressing some concern over changing the requirements in the OOC when the drawdown is meeting DEP guidance. Motion made to accept the request to amend OOC #102-257 as presented, (Pryor/Perry). MSV, passed unanimously. Motion made to extend OOC #102-257 for the drawdown of Palmer Brook Lake for three years, (Pryor/Brand). MSV passed unanimously

9. Request for an extension of Order of Conditions #102-391 for the construction of a single family house, well, on-site wastewater system and driveway off Algeria Road.

Commissioners visited the site. Some concern expressed concerning the proposed 1 to 1 slope toward the lake. Ms. Boomsma explained geotextiles and ground cover will be used to stabilize the slope. Motion made to extend OOC #102-391 three years, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV passed unanimously. Agent was asked to send the signed paperwork to landowner's agent- White Engineering.

10. Discussion about work at 266 Tyne Road, (Map 203 Lot 52&53):

Ms. Boomsma explained the landowners have already received approval for the construction of a house. The initial plan was to construct on-site but the owners are now interested in bringing in a modular unit. The space needed to negotiate a modular unit on to the site would require changes to the approved driveway layout. The new location would be through an isolated wetland at the edge of the roadway. This would also put the house in the buffer zone though the on-site wastewater system would be changed from pump to gravity feed. The Commissioners requested updated plans for review. Ms. Boomsma will send the plans.

11. Miscellaneous:

Agent Larcom provided an update of recent issues and projects.

-Becket Woods (Mark Arsenault) was provided an emergency order to remove a beaver dam. Work may be in violation of WPA.

- 48 Osceola Road may require an enforcement order relative to a negative RDA issued by the Commission. The work completed is not as shown on the approved plan.

- a restoration plan for Center Pnd public beach may be prepared relative to the erosion issues at the beach.

-The YMCA will likely request a partial certificate of compliance for 2 of 3 components of a permitted project. A new NOI will be needed for the final aspect of the work because of the expiration of the existing OOC.

-Beaver Brook Road is a possible enforcement order associated with the dumping of stone in the brook. The area is a priority area for a state-listed species. A Cease and Desist order was placed on the windscreen of a vehicle at the site. A follow-up call did to the presumed owner did not generate any clarification on the situation. Motion made to issue an enforcement order to property owner for work that reduces the capacity of the stream to carry flow, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV passed unanimously.

-Letter was received from Meredyth Babcock of Becket, representing the Westfield Wild & Scenic River Committee, requesting sponsorship from the Commission for the 17

September West Branch Westfield River *Bio-Blitz*. Several Commissioners have already agreed to participate in the event. The Commission felt this was a worthwhile endeavor. Motion made to be the local sponsor of Westfield Wild & Scenic River Bio-blitz 2016, (Karlberg/Delpapa). MSV

-Agent Larcom informed the Commission of her plans to have public office hours on Mondays and Fridays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. The schedule may change in the winter when it is anticipated a reduction in activity.

-The Planning Board requested input from the Agent Larco regarding the proposed new location of the Becket General Store. Agent Larcom informed the Planning of the need for any proposed work in the riverfront area, such as an expansion of the car park area or placement of the solid waste container(s), to come before the Commission.

-The Commission was queried about interest in MACC sponsored trainings. There was no immediate interest.

-Agent Larcom brought up the issue of the existing filing fees and the inadequacy of the fees to cover the cost of running public notices in the paper. She suggested the Commission might consider a change in fees to coincide with the start of fiscal year 2017 on 1 July.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting, (Brand/Perry). MSV. Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm by Chair Dixon.