

MINUTES
Becket Conservation Commission
Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street
June 14, 2016

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

Commissioners Absent: Karen Karlberg and Richard Pryor

Members of the Public: Matt Bowen, John Field, Joseph Gagnon, Kathryn Strohmenger, Emily Stockman

Meeting opened at 6:41 PM with Chair Dixon presiding. Meeting statement made and Commission members introduced.

1. Request for Determination of Applicability from Kathryn Strohmenger for the removal of trees in the buffer area at 303 Old Pond Road (Map 210, Lot 54). Agent Larcom completed a site visit. The homeowner is proposing to trim hemlocks overhanging the roof of the house resulting in rot, removing a birch tree with roots threatening a shed foundation and removing a grouping of trees and mixed vegetation (largest tree about 10" diameter) growing between the septic tank and the leech field which may be threatening the on-site system components. The title 5 inspection report recommended trimming this grouping but did not specify removal. Motion for a negative determination #3 with Becket Special Conditions for the trimming of hemlock trees adjacent to the house and the manual removal of the grouping of vegetation located between the septic tank and leech field at 303 Old Pond Road (Map 210, Lot 54), (Brand/Perry). MSV unanimously.
2. Request for Determination of Applicability from Richard Biasin for the removal of trees in the buffer area at 517 Otis Road, (Map 204, Lot 146). Agent Larcom and commissioner Delpapa visited the site. Mr. Biasin's arborist, John Field, was present as his representative. The homeowner would like to remove a maple and mature hemlock. Mr. Field explained the hemlock is not dead but once dead it will be unsafe to climb so should be removed now. The maple is overhanging the neighbor's house. The arborist is not currently engaged to replant trees. Mr. Field proposes to climb the hemlock to cut the tree down but will use a truck to remove the maple tree. He will use plastic mats to bring in a truck to take out the red maple. Both tree trunks will be cut flush to the ground. Motion to issue a negative determination #3 for the removal of two trees at 517 Otis Road (Map 204, Lot 146) to be removed with trunks cut flush to the ground, larger tree (hemlock) adjacent to the lake will be removed manually and the maple will be removed mechanically with the truck accessing the site using alternamats. Becket special conditions to apply and two replacement native trees will be planted on the property before autumn 2016, (Delpapa/Perry). MSV unanimously.
3. Request for Determination of Applicability from Joseph Gagnon for the removal of trees in the buffer area at 176 Alan-A-Dale Drive and on the abutting lots owned by the same property owner, (Map 216, Lot 488D). Agent Larcom and commissioner Delpapa visited the site. Mr. Gagnon reported several of the eight trees slated to be removed fell down in the high winds this past week. Mr. Gagnon would like to remove five trees (Birch, cherry and 3 beech)overhanging a small shed, a large, dead beech in the backyard and two other dead trees behind the house.

The homeowner is planning on replacement plantings of sugar maples and blueberries. Agent Larcom noted this work may be covered under an agricultural exemption. Motion to issue a negative determination #3 with Becket Special Conditions for the manual removal of 8 trees at 176 Alan-A-Dale Drive and the planting of sugar maples and blueberries bushes to replace lost trees, (Perry/Brand). MSV unanimously.

4. Notification by homeowner Matthew Bowen of the initiation of an exempt minor activity to be taking place at 3211 Main Street – conversion of an in-ground swimming pool to a vegetative surface (grassed lawn). Fill and gravel will be brought in to fill in the pool after the aluminum sides are removed and hay bales are installed between work area and brook. This work is exempt but the conservation agent should be notified before work begins.
5. Request by Attorney Elisabeth Goodman and Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates, LLC, both representing Robert Ronzio, to discuss and request modifications to the Enforcement Order issued to Robert Ronzio of 88 Nottingham Court (Map 216, Lot 752). Ms. Stockman was present to represent Mr. Ronzio as a conflict prevented Atty Goodman from attending this meeting. Hill Engineers engaged Ms. Stockman on 18 May, 2016 to do a delineation of the Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The Enforcement Order required Mr. Ronzio to nominate a wetland professional before the delineation was started but Ms. Stockman explained she was engaged before the Enforcement Order was issued. Subsequent to completing the delineation, Atty Goodman contacted Ms. Stockman and informed her of the Enforcement Order. Ms. Stockman would like to review the requirement in the Enforcement Order with the Commission. Ms. Stockman provided a provisional map she prepared showing the delineation line. Ms. Stockman reported there was one area in the delineation where the boundary could not be established because of the amount of fill in place. Ms. Stockman expressed her opinion that the timeline in the Enforcement Order is not feasible and would like to request an extension allowing a plan to be presented for discussion at the July 12th meeting. A site visit could also be scheduled. Commissioners preference was to have the site visit after the working plan was presented so they would be better prepared while visiting the site. Ms. Stockman also requested a change within the Enforcement Order. Specifically she requested the second checked box on page 2, ‘area alteration resulting from said activity shall be corrected and the resource areas returned to their original condition’, be unchecked arguing this requirement conflicts with the requirement to ‘complete a restoration plan which would allow for a replacement area elsewhere on the property’. Also, at the bottom of page 2, she asked for a change to read a bordering vegetated wetland replacement plan. Ms. Stockman mentioned that Mr. Ronzio has 60 days to appeal and he is quite concerned about the conflicting language in the Enforcement Order.

Chair Dixon called for a short recess at 7:58 PM. Meeting called back in session at 8:09. Agent Larcom reported the recommendation from DEP staff was to agree to delay the plan to the July meeting but no other changes to the existing Enforcement Order. Motion made to extend the deadline for the restoration plan for 88 Nottingham Court, required in the Enforcement Order issued to Robert Ronzio, be provided to the Becket Conservation Commission no later than 12 July, 2016, (Delpapa/Brand). MSV unanimously.

6. Request from the Becket Planning Board to provide input on the materials submitted by Heather Anello for a Special Permit under Zoning By-Law Section 9.3, for Map 207, Lot 66. Agent Larcom shared the initial letter she provided the Planning Board and a copy of the plot plan provided to the Planning Board. The plan shows an expansion of the car parking area and the placement of a solid waste container at the back of the parking area. These activities would be in the Riverfront area. The on-site system and well will need to be upgraded. There is only a

small section of the parcel outside of the Riverfront Resource Area. Planning Board is asking for more input based on the additional information provided. Consensus was to encourage any new disturbance be done outside of the Riverfront Resource area. Commissioner Delpapa will draft a letter on behalf of the Commission and send it out for Commission review.

7. Request from the Chair to ratify the Enforcement Order issued to Robert Maratea for the conversion of vegetation to sand to create a beach within the buffer area of Lancelot Lake without approval from the Conservation Commission (Map 217, Lot 85D). Agent Larcom received a call about this property triggering a site visit. The owner was filing the shorefront with sand on the day of the visit. Agent Larcom prepared an Enforcement Order requiring the owner to cease and desist the filling activity, install siltation control to contain the sand pile in the driveway and submit an NOI by 22 July, 2016. Agent Larcom estimated the amount of alteration to be approximately 450 square feet. Motion made to ratify the Enforcement Order to Mr. Robert Maratea for the conversion of vegetated area to a sand beach at 109 Lancelot Lane (Map 217, Lot 85D) for the 450 ft² beach, (Brand/Perry). MSV unanimously.
8. Request from the Chair to discuss a regular schedule for site visit. The 4th Saturday morning 9:00 to 1:00 and/or the last Friday evening of the month from 6 to 7 PM were selected.
9. Request from the Chair to discuss and adopt meeting guidelines for the Conservation Commission. Consensus to continue this agenda item to the next meeting.
10. Request from the Chair to discuss a potential public hearing for a RDA fee increase. The current fee does not cover all of the costs incurred with processing the filing and public notification. Agent Larcom recommended this hearing occur before or soon after the end of the fiscal year in June. Some concerns were raised about finding the time for a public hearing in June and even July given the large number of filings coming in at this time. Will continue the discussion at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 (Brand/Perry). MSV.