

MINUTES
Becket Conservation Commission
Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street
6:30 PM, March 22, 2016

Commissioners Present: Alison Dixon, Chair; Barbara Brand, Cindy Delpapa; Karen Karlberg, Rebecca Perry, Richard Pryor (By telephone)

Commissioners Absent: none

Members of the Public:

Meeting opened at 6:35 PM with Ms. Dixon presiding. Meeting statement made and members introduced.

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of meeting of 9 February, 2016**
Motion made and seconded to approve the 9 February, 2016 as distributed. (Karlberg/Brand). MSV 4 in favor (Dixon, Brand, Delpapa, Karlberg) 2 abstentions (Perry, Pryor).
- 2. Request for a Determination of Applicability-Camp Watitoh:** The camp wishes to remove an unhealthy cherry tree within 100 ft of Center Pond and Center Pond Brook. The tree poses a threat to children using a recreation area at the camp. A site visit to the camp occurred on 8 March. Area is dominated by hemlocks. Motion made and seconded to issue a negative 3 determination and have the proponent plant several hemlocks trees of at least 4-5 ft. in height in the vicinity of the removed tree. (Karlberg/Brand). MSV passed unanimously.
- 3. Update on the hiring of a new Becket Conservation Agent:** A. Dixon reported another candidate interview was scheduled for the 24th. This individual is a recent graduate with some MA WPA experience and recommended by DEP circuit rider M. Stinson.
- 4. November Meeting Date Rescheduled:** The town does not allow meetings to be held when it is an election day so the November meeting needs to be rescheduled. Motion made and seconded to change the November 2016 meeting to Tuesday the 15th, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV passed unanimously.

Correspondence and telephone inquiries:

- Rick Miller of RJM Landscaping emailed inquiring about any 'formal' paperwork following a site inspection of a negative RDA #3 for the installation of a pathway to Center Pond at an Osceola Road property by former agent S. Evans in autumn 2015. As a negative RDA, only a site inspection is required to close out the project. No information regarding the site visit was found. Chair Dixon will check with Mr. Evans about the site visit and follow-up with a letter to the property owner saying the final site inspection was the completed.

- Camp Lenox reported they intend to file an RDA in time for the next meeting for a deck demolition.
- Alexandra Glover, a representative for the Jacobs Hollow Road Assoc. contacted the Commission office. Commissioners visited Jacobs Hollow Road with DEP Circuit Rider Mark Stinson to inspect the temporary mitigation measures and the impact to the resource area. Ms. Glover expressed concern about DEP being called about this situation and requested an opportunity to discuss the situation. Commissioners requested the homeowner's association be asked to comply with the requirement inspect and maintain the temporary sediment controls and to submit an NOI with sufficient time to advertise the hearing for the April 19th meeting.
- Town Warrant Article recommendation made to reduce the number of commission members from seven to five members was considered by the Select Board. The Select Board recommended a change in how the quorum was calculated to reflect a majority of the number of currently appointed members. The commissioners agreed this was a good approach. C. Delpapa will let the town secretary know the revised warrant article is acceptable to the commission.
- A Request for Determination of Applicability was received from the MA Depart. Of Transportation regarding the resurfacing of Rte 8 from the Washington town line to Rte 20. The filing was received on March 14th so it was too late to place it on this meetings agenda which had already been posted. Motion made and seconded to table this RDA until the April 19th meeting (Delpapa/Karlberg). MSV passed unanimously.
- The Berkshire Regional Planning sent out a reminder about the next Berkshire Conservation Commission Meeting on 29 March at 6:30 PM at the BRPC offices at 1 Fenn Street in Pittsfield.

Miscellaneous:

Commissioners were asked if they preferred to receive meeting materials digitally or paper copies. Brand and Delpapa prefer digital and Karlberg and Perry prefer hard copies.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV passed unanimously.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.