

**MINUTES**  
**Becket Conservation Commission**  
**Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street**  
**6:30 PM, April 19, 2016**

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Richard Pryor

**Members of the Public:** Mark Stinson (DEP)

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

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of meeting of 22 March, 2016**  
Motion made and seconded to approve the 22 March, 2016 as distributed.  
(Karlberg/Brand). MSV passed unanimously.
- 2. Request for a Determination of Applicability- Camp Lenox Deck:** The camp is interested in replacing and expanding an existing deck adjacent to the lake. The camp also wishes to add a metal roof over the deck. Commissioners requested gutters be installed to prevent an erosional gully/trench forming and releasing soils to the lake. Commissioners discussed the metal roof and the potential to leech metals into the lake. Ecotiles would be preferable. A metal roof coated with an acceptable material could be a viable alternative. The Camp Lenox representative looked into ecotiles and they appear to be available only in Europe but will continue looking into the matter so this project may move forward.  
Motion made to issue a negative determination #3 with Becket standard special conditions and the additional requirement to have the Commission review and approve the roof material. (Delpapa/Brand). MSV passed unanimously.
- 3. Request for a Determination of Applicability- MA DOT Rte 8 Resurfacing:** MA Department of Transportation will be resurfacing Rte 8 from the Washington town line to Rte 20 intersection. A MA DOT representative met with Becket Agent M. Lowry earlier in the week. The MA DOT representative explained the work will also include maintenance (cleaning) of the drainage manhole structures. Part of the work will be in the 100 year floodplain which is within jurisdiction. The existing surface will be milled so the roadway elevation will not increase in the flood zone. Commissioner Karlberg requested the construction crew be conscientious about not littering as she has witnessed problems at other work sites.  
Motion made to issue a negative determination #2 and #5 for the resurfacing of Rte 8 with Becket standard special conditions and the additional condition that the resurfacing crew be required to be picked-up daily during the resurfacing work. (Karlberg/Perry) MSV

- 4. Request for a Determination of Applicability- Hertzog Dock over Indian Lake:** The project is for two 6' by 10' aluminum-frame deck additions with composite decking to be added to an existing wooden dock. Agent Larcom visit the site and reported there did not appear to be any benthic/aquatic vegetation though the bank was well vegetated and there is an over-hanging tree. The proponent's representative from Walks on Water Docks explained the dock assembled at the site and will not disturb the vegetation. The representative did not know what the composite decking was made of so it could not be determined if the material might leech pollutants into the lake. The representative did say the material holds up well and does not fade with time.  
Motion made to issue a negative determination #2 with Becket standard special conditions. (Karlberg/Brand). MSV. 4 in favor, 1 opposed.
- 5. Request for Determination of Applicability- Andrew Jackson Subsurface disposal system.** The property is at 1054 County Road. Mike Parson was present as the owner's representative. Commissioners attended a site visit the previous week. Mr. Parsons made adjustments to the location of the sub surface in response to concerns expressed at the site visit to reduce the disturbance in the buffer area. The change incorporates a retaining wall at the down slope edge. Commissioner Karlberg noted that the hay bales at the site are in poor condition and should be maintained more diligently.  
Motion made to issue a negative determination #3 with Becket standard special conditions for a subsurface disposal system at 1054 County Road. (Perry/Karlberg) MSV.
- 6. Request for Determination of Applicability-Cohen Roland Drive Dock Extension on Center Pond.** The Commission went on a site visit the previous week. The proposed dock will be floating and braced to the shoreline decking. It will be floated over to the site seasonally. The proponent will be applying for Chapter 91 license as soon as a negative determination or Order of Conditions is issued.  
Motion made to issue a negative determination #3, (Karlberg/Perry). MSV 4 in favor, 1 opposed.
- 7. Notice of Intent with respect to an Enforcement Order issued to Jacobs Hollow Association.** The Commission went on another site visit the previous week. Temporary straw waddles were installed last year in response to an enforcement order. This NOI is to deal with a more permanent solution, remove sediment from the resource area and to allow for road maintenance. The maintenance would not include any replacement or repair of intermittent stream crossings. Commissioners requested permanent stone check dams be included in the drainage swale (north side of road) to capture sediment. The straw waddles should remain in place until the permanent structures are built. Motions to close the public hearing, (Brand/Karlberg). MSV  
Motion to approve the Notice of Intent for Jacobs Hollow Road maintenance and roadwork with Becket standard special conditions and with added conditions that rock check dams be installed on the north side of Jacobs Hollow Rd upslope of the impacted wetland resource area. The check dams will be checked monthly and after major storms with maintenance/clean outdone as needed. The bank with the dredge exposed dredge spoils from the excavation of the drainage swale will be reseeded to reduce sediment into swale. (Karlberg/Perry). MSV

**8. Request for a 3 year extension of OOC- Palmer Brook Corporation for a drawdown (OOC102-257).** This is a continuation from last meeting. Several representatives from the Palmer Brook Corporation (PBC) were present and explained the annual drawdowns meticulously follow the state guidance. The PBC has also followed special condition found in paragraph 14 and supplied annual assessments of the pond/impoundment. The PBC representatives noted the guidance has not changed since the issuance of the OOC in 2003. Commission appreciated the PBC fully following the state guidance but noted the OOC had omissions such as limiting the drawdown to 4 feet. Should the PBC sell the property the new owners would not be legally bound to a 4 foot drawdown. Concern was expressed by Commissioner Delpapa about the impact of the flow manipulation to the downstream resource areas. Without the outflow generally matching the inflow through the biological active period the stream would be impacted. The natural flow regime is a key factor in the biodiversity and stability of a stream ecosystem according to a considerable number of PEER reviewed papers.

Motion to approve a three year extension of the existing OOC 102-257, (Brand/Perry). Discussion continued. The PBC would like to avoid filing a new NOI. M. Stinson offered this opinion that if the Conservation Commission requested special conditions not included in the state's lake and pond guidance and the OOC was appealed by the proponent, DEP would overturn. M Stinson explain an amendment providing clarification could be done without a public hearing though one would be needed for more substantial amendments. The PBC representatives realize the Commission would like assessment to be extended to Palmer Brook and requested some guidance for what this assessment should include. Agent Larcom will follow-up. Brand withdrew her motion on the table. Motion made to holdover the vote until next meeting, (Brand/Perry).MSV

**9. Request for a 3 year extension of OOC - Sherwood Green Lake District for control of invasive plants (OOC 102-393).** The District would like to continue control of *Phragmites*. The annual report on the invasives controls stated glycoposphate was used to control the *Phragmites* while the NOI indicated the chemical to be used would be Imazapr. Also it was found that the District had overlooked the need to register the original OOC and this should be done immediately.

Motion made to extend OOC 102-393 for three years, (Brand/Perry). MSV

Misc: Agent Larcom provided a written summary of upcoming issues and filings. She will also send out a Doodle Poll to find a suitable time for site visits before the next meeting. The Commission received correspondence from R. Ronzio concerning the enforcement letter he received. He indicated he was not the property owner but requested he be the sole point person about the issue covered in the enforcement order. Commission requested written authorization from the property owner.

Motion to adjourn (Karlberg/ Brand). MSV. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.