

**Town of Becket Conservation Commission**  
**Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

*Commissioners in attendance:* Chair Alison Dixon, Barbara Brand, Cindy Delpapa, Karen Karlberg, Rebecca Perry, Richard Pryor, and Agent Mallory Larcom

*Also in attendance:* Steve Turner, Dan Rukakoski, Anthony Johnson, Emily Stockman, and Jesse Giardina

Chair Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM, read meeting guidelines and introduced Commissioners.

1. Motion made to approve the minutes of the 18 October, 2016 meeting, (Karlberg/Perry). MSV.

2. *Public input and comment for items not on the agenda.*

Steve Turner, representing Camp Becket, asked the Commission to consider a minor change to the well access project approved early in the year. The change requested was to seed the edge of the access road instead of using riprap. Motion made to allow Camp Becket to seed, instead of riprap, the shoulder of the well access road with a follow-up request for a minor modification to be presented at the December meeting, (Karlberg/Perry). MSV

3. ***Request for Determination of Applicability for tree removal in the buffer-zone and bank area of Yokum Pond at 607 Yokum Pond Road (Map 203, Lot 21).***

A site visit was conducted. The lot is well forested with several dead trees near the lake with the potential to fall on the house's deck. These trees are proposed to be removed, by a forester, and replaced with a white pine. Motion made to issue a negative determination #3 with Becket Standard Conditions including erosion controls used for work within 20 ft of Yokum Pond as warranted and necessary. The tree removal may only occur after the ground is frozen with as minimal equipment as is practicable and tree stumps and roots are to be left in place. A replacement native species tree shall be planted during the next growing season in the general vicinity of the large tree on the upper bank of Yokum Pond. Any natural plant materials or soils in the buffer zone disturbed during tree removal shall be replaced, (Perry/Brand). MSV.

4. ***Request for Determination of Applicability for the installation of a tight tank in the buffer-zone of Big Robin Hood Pond at 178 Mystic Isle Way (Map 216, Lot 439D).***

A site visit was conducted. Commissioners noted the options for siting a tank are limited. The existing on-site system has failed. The tight tank proposed will be 3000 gallons with an alarm set to 3/5 full. Motion made to issue a negative determination #3 and #5, with Becket Standard Conditions including a modification in the erosion control location as shown on the modified plan, citing Title 5 exemption 310 CMR 10.03 (3) and the presumption concerning 310 CMR 15.00. The system is set back a minimum of 50 feet horizontally from the resource area of the pond, (Brand/Pryor). MSV.

5. ***Request for Determination of Applicability from Eversource Energy, for the reclamation of the utility right of way including the removal of woody vegetation within upland, the buffer-zone of several wetlands, temporary stream crossings. The project location begins off Jacob's Ladder Road to the North continuing to the Otis town line off Johnson Road.***

Dan Rackacowsky, representing Eversource Energy, and Tony Johnson, of Eversource Energy, summarized the work proposed. The aim of this project is to reduce storm-related downed power lines through the reclamation/clearing the full width of the utility right-of-way of 200 feet. Approximately 5.5 miles of the 6 miles of the utility right-of-way will be impacted by this work. State lands, wetlands and the Appalachian Trail will be avoided but clearing within resource buffer zones is proposed. Temporary crossings of intermittent streams are needed to gain access to upland areas. Contractor will use swamp mats or a temporary bridge for riverine and wetland crossings. Every attempt will be made to obtain permission to access the right-of-way through private lands and use other right-of-way access points. Only trees with the potential to threaten power lines now or in the future will be removed. Vegetation unlikely to reach a line-threatening height will not be removed. About 17.8 acres of buffer zone will have tree cutting. Trees will be left on site if the landowner requests, all other cut trees will be removed. Stumps will remain. Eversource has the option to have machine maintenance done off site. Will have an observer on site to make sure the swamp mats being used do not have vegetative matter lodged in the mat to transfer to another area. Plan to start project in January and anticipate 3-4 weeks to complete. Mr. Johnson said Eversource would be willing to entertain a planting program within the town as mitigation. The Commission requested a confirmation of the number of temporary stream crossings, more information on the types and quantity of trees to be removed (by species and size) in buffer areas, and an updated map 10 showing areas to be left undisturbed. The Commission is interested in and discussed mitigation options to offset the buffer zone impacts (need not be on site). It was suggested work could be modified to avoid disturbance within 10 to 15 feet off of a buffer zone – taking only hazard trees at this time. Commission requested a site visit. Motion made to continue this application until the 13 December, 2016 meeting, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV.

**6. *Request for a Minor Change in Plan from Sherwood Forest Lakes District, DEP #102-0409, to use an alternative location for a revetment mat.***

Mike Kulik, representing the Lake District, explained the requested change involves moving the location of the mat-launch area farther away from the wetland (cattail) area. Motion made to approve the minor change to the OOC for DEP #102-0409 to allow for a change in the location of the revetment mat as noted on the plan, (Pryor/Perry). MSV.

**7. *Review of the Enforcement Order and Mitigation Plan for Robert Maratea, for violation occurring at 109 Lancelot Lane (Map 217, Lot 85D).***

Emily Stockman, representing the owner, provided a brief memorandum with photo documentation showing the completed work. The sand on the created beach was removed, waddles put in place and the area seeded. Ms. Stockman inspected the work and confirmed all required work was completed. The owner respectfully requested a letter/email acknowledging the required work has been completed in a timely manner. Ms. Stockman also requested a letter for the remediation work done under an Enforcement Order on Werden Road be sent as agreed to.

**8. *Ratification of the Emergency Certification issued to Donald Tuleja and Gary O'Brien, for the removal of a hazardous tree in the buffer-zone at 162 Mystic Isle Way.***

Owners wished to remove a tree hanging over a power line to the house. Motion made to ratify the Emergency Certification issued to Donald Tuleja to remove a hazardous tree and replant with a native tree within one year at 162 Mystic Isle Way, (Pryor/Perry). MSV.

**9. Discussion of Conservation Budget for FY18.**

Agent Larcom provided a breakdown of the filings per year for the past few years by category. The information shows RDA requests have been increasing. Agent Larcom is meeting with the Otis Conservation Commission to discuss the possibility of a shared agent position, (Otis does not currently have an agent) as the Becket Town Administrator is in favor of exploring this option. This option would allow the towns to share the costs associated with a full time employee. The Commission discussed how commissioners might take on some tasks to alleviate the agent's work burden. The FY17 Commission budget is due mid-January. Chair Dixon would like the draft completed by the first week of January.

**10. Continuance: Request for Certificate of Compliance from Jacob's Hollow Road Association, DEP #102-0413**

The Association has still not filed the necessary paperwork needed for the Commission to consider issuing a certificate.

**11. Continued Discussion: of the Enforcement Order Issued to 370 Alan-A-Dale Drive, Darius Kalicki (Map 216, Lot 268).**

Agent Larcom is extending the timeline to submit materials as she has not had an opportunity to work with owner. The materials will now be due 12 days prior to the January meeting. The owner ignored the cease and desist order issued and put in the tight tank.

**12. Continuance from June 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Request from the Chair to discuss and adopt meeting guidelines for the Conservation Commission.**

Discussed if these additions to the opening guidelines are necessary or if accepted Robert's rules of order are enough. Some suggestions were made to refine the meeting guidance- changing questions to be directed to the Commission to Commission Chair. Motion made to adopt the meeting guidance with edits, (Brand/Dixon). MSV.

**13. Continuance from June 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Request from the Chair to discuss a potential public hearing for a fee increase for commission RDA fees for fiscal year 2017.**

This discussion was continued until the budget needs are more clearly known. Suggest considering adopting a fine schedule for violations. This change would require a change to a bylaw.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM by Chair Dixon.*

**Action Items**

- Camp Becket to file a request for a minor modification for the approved well access road shoulder stabilization from riprap to seeding.
- Schedule a site visit to view select areas of the Eversource right-of-way reclamation
- Confirmation letter prepared and sent for 109 Lancelot Lane Enforcement Order work
- Confirmation letter prepared and sent for Werden Road Enforcement Order work
- Agent to work with owner at 370 Alan-A-Dale Drive to prepare required materials