

Town of Becket
Conservation Commission Minutes
Tuesday, 10 January, 2017

Commissioners Present: Alison Dixon- Chair, Barbara Brand, Cindy Delpapa, Rebecca Perry, Mallory Larcom- Agent.

Commissioners not in attendance: K Karlberg, R Pryor.

Public in attendance: Dariusz Kalicki

Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM by Chair Dixon with the reading of meeting guidelines and introduction of Commissioners present.

1. Minutes: Motion made to approve the minutes of the 13 December, 2016 meeting, (Perry/Dixon). MSV with one abstention.

2. Public Input: Mr. Kalicki addressed the Commission about his property, 370 Alan-A-Dale, and the recent work performed to rectify a failed on-site wastewater treatment system. This work resulted in an enforcement letter from the Commission because the work was in the riverfront resource area of Walker Brook. Mr. Kalicki explained he asked the town about installing a new leach field but was told site constraints negated this option and a tight tank was needed. A local contractor was hired to install the tight tank. The work was done in September. The owner was not told by his contractor the installation needed approval from the Conservation Commission. The Becket Health Agent was present for the Title 5 compliance inspection and was concerned about incorrect buoyancy information provided by contractor. The tight tank is larger (3,000 gallons) than and placed adjacent to the existing on-site system. Images of the property were provided by Mr. Kalicki to show no trees or shrubs were removed during the tank installation though the property owner would like to undertake landscaping adjacent to Walker Brook to open up sight lines. Chair Dixon explained the work would be in a regulated resource area and any work would need to be reviewed and approved by the Commission. At a minimum, a Request of a Determination of Applicability would be required and the Commission could provide guidance.

With regard to the Enforcement Order related to disturbance in the riverfront resource area and buffer zone related to the tight tank installation, Commissioners were interested in the owner planting native vegetation this coming growing season as mitigation. The Commission requested a site visit in early spring. Motion made to extend the Enforcement Order deadline, related to activity in the riverfront area of Walker Brook at 370 Alan-A-Dale Drive, to the April Conservation Commission meeting, (Brand/Perry). MSV.

3. CSX Transportation RDA for herbicide application to the railroad right-of-way through the Town of Becket continued to 11 April, 2017.

4. Action Items from December meeting: Chair Dixon notified the MACC of the Becket Conservation Commission's vote to sign-on to their pipeline letter.

Chair Dixon confirmed with the Town Administrator Commissioners are entitled to mileage reimbursement, (\$0.54/mile) when attending trainings and conferences. Mileage forms must be completed and filed monthly.

Eversource has not contacted the Commission about viewing marked trees as agreed to at the December meeting.

5. Conservation Budget: Commissioners discussed the proposed FY18 Conservation budget at length. Motion made to approve the FY18 Conservation budget as presented by Chair Dixon, (Brand/Perry). MSV.

6. RDA Fee Increase: Discussion started at the June meeting concerning a possible RDA fee increase was resumed. Commissioners agreed the fee charged to applicants submitting a RDA does not cover the cost of the public notification, processing and review. Currently \$25 is charge for posting in the County Journal which falls shy of the typical cost of \$32. Posting in the Berkshire Eagle is \$95+ for one day and in rare cases applicants may opt to pay an increased fee to post their notice when the County Journal submittal deadline is missed. The remaining \$25 of the current RDA fee is used to cover the agent's time to process and review the RDA application. Consensus was reached to increase the RDA fee to \$75. Motion made to hold a Public Hearing on 14 February, 2017 on the proposed RDA fee increase from \$50.00 to \$75.00, (Perry/Bond). MSV.

7. Miscellaneous Items: Chair Dixon asked Commissioners contact her as soon as possible if they wished to attend the MACC Annual Meeting in March. Chair Dixon will work to pay all registration fees through the town as this would negate the need for Commissioners to file individual reimbursement requests.

Help is requested to sort through and cull, (using approved protocol) Commission files.

Agent Larcom received a call from a property owner wishing to clear land to plant blueberries bushes. The necessary forms were sent to the property owner.

Agent Larcom updated the Commission on the on-site system at 3235 Main Street. The leach field, which is in the riverfront area of Yokum Brook, was found to be in groundwater.

Next Conservation Commission meeting is 14 February with site visits on 11 February.

Motion made to adjourn, (Perry/Brand). MSV. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Action Items:

- Public Notice posted in County Journal for RDA fee change.
- Commissioners wanting to attend the MACC Annual Meeting should let Chair Dixon know ASAP.
- Assistance in sorting Commission files is needed- contact Chair Dixon or Agent Larcom.