

Town of Becket
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2017

Commissioner in attendance: Alison Dixon (Chair), Barbara Brand, Cindy Delpapa, Karen Karlberg, Richard Pryor. Agent Mallory Larcom arrived at 7:53 PM.

Commissioners not in attendance: none

Members of the public: Robert Ronzio, Barbara Wacholder, Russell J Smith, Jr., June C. Smith, Edward Gibson (Becket Town Administrator), Ken Wagner, Kate Wilkins, Steve Sroka, Adele Levine, Robert Akroyd, Shannon Boomsma, Sergey Kaletin, Jessica Arrowsmith, Mark Smith, Jeff Smith.

Chair Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM, read the meeting guidelines, asked if anyone was recording the meeting and introduced the members of the Becket Conservation Commission. R Ronzio recording the meeting.

Minutes:

Commissioner Karlberg asked if the Commission requested a construction schedule for the Henry project and specified a perennial wild flower mix and not just wildflower mix. The Commission had not stipulated perennial mix or a schedule. Request to obtain the email referenced in the minutes from Agent Larcom to be appended to the minutes. Motion to approve the minutes of the 11 July, 2017 Becket Conservation Commission meeting with minor edits and the body of the 7 July, 2017 email relative to the NOI filed by Klimchick- DEP#102-0246 amended to the minutes, (Pryor/Brand). MSV.

Public Input:

None offered.

New Business:

1. **Request for Determination of Applicability from Russell J. Smith, Jr.**, for the installation of a seasonal aluminum dock comprising a total of approximately 64 square feet in size on Center Pond. **Project location is 55 Tecumseh Dr., (Map 211, Lot 28)**. Commissioners visited the site. Mr. Smith was in attendance and offered an amendment to the size of the dock. It will be 80 square feet. Motion to approve a negative determination #2 to install a seasonal 80 square foot dock over the waters of Center Pond, (Brand/Pryor). MSV.
2. **Request for Determination of Applicability from Joyce Anzalone**, for the installation of a seasonal aluminum dock comprising approximately 80 square feet in size on Long Bow Lake. **Project location is 74 Bow South, (Map 214, Lot 47)**. Neither the applicant nor a representative was present. No site visit was performed. Discussion of this RDA was moved to the end of the agenda to allow for input from Agent Larcom. Motion to issue a negative determination #3 for the installation of a gate, the gate will

remain open when the property is not occupied to allow wildlife passage and a negative determination #2 for the installation of an 80 square foot seasonal dock over the waters of Long Bow Lake, (Brand/Pryor). MSV.

3. **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent from Sergey and Olga Kaletin**, for the construction of a gravel driveway with a length of 1,400 linear feet and a width of 10 feet in the Riverfront Area of Yokum Brook with associated vegetation removal. **Project location is 0 Yokum Pond Road, (Map 409, Lot 3)**. R Akroyd was in attendance representing the applicants. Agent Larcom visited the site. The parcel is ~13 acres, in existence prior to 1996, with Yokum Brook crossing one corner of the parcel. Three resources areas are present: riverfront area (inner/first 100 ft and outer/100-200 ft riverfront area), flood and buffer zone. The applicant's chosen design maximizes Wetland Protection Act compliance. Agent Larcom voiced concern about the lack of a wetland delineation as there is evidence of intermittent streams across the proposed driveway. R Akroyd explained the rocky and sloped nature of the site creates conditions unfavorable to channel formation. The landforms observed in the field were due to runoff- created gullies. In response to an inquiry about the need for a culvert, R Akroyd explained a culvert will be installed at the road and will be part of their request for a curb cut. In response to a question about the number of trees to be cut to at the site, R Akroyd estimated the removal of 18-20 trees. Further clarifying that if a tree of 12 inches in diameter or greater is encounter the driveway will be rerouted to avoid the large tree. Chair Dixon opened the public comment period at 6:58 PM. No comment was offered. Chair Dixon closed the public comment period at 6:59 PM. Chair Dixon expressed a wish to see a delineation of the wetland as there are bordering vegetated wetlands on the property, the proposed location of erosion controls included on the site plan, and stockpiled soils be tarped if stormy weather is predicted though daily covering would be preferable. Agent Larcom noted DEP has not issued a file number and there is a discussion about the appropriate filing fee. Motion to continue the NOI filed by Sergey and Olga Kaletin for the construction of a 1,400 foot gravel driveway in the Riverfront Area of Yokum Brook with associated vegetation removal at 0 Yokum Pond Road, (Map 409, Lot 3) to the 19 September, 2017 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV.

4. **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent from Indian Lake Association**, for the winter drawdown of Indian Lake for the purpose of aquatic vegetation management. **Project location is Indian Lake (Seneca Rd), (Maps 218-219). DEP #102-0428**. K Wagner of Water Resource Associates noted his 20 years of involvement with this project and the Indian Lake Association. The lake association wished to continue annual drawdowns reducing the drawdown to 4 feet. The project effects only bank and not land under water as the lake has been drawdown for so many years. The drawdown does not qualify as an Ecological Restoration project because the vegetation in the impoundment is native species. B. Wacholder of the Indian Lake Association explained the Association's caretaker conducts the drawdown. The Commission requested clarification on the information to be recorded during the drawdown and refill. K Wagner anticipated a member of the lake association will record the water level at the to-be-installed Bonny Rigg Road gage when a board is pulled in the autumn drawdown. Concern was expressed about a drawdown exceeding the GEIR recommendation for maximum flow per unit area. K Wagner offered his opinion that the recommendation in the GEIR is not based on science and the Association should the not be held to this standard. K Wagner

reported taking a daily lake gage reading would be a hardship. Public hearing opened by Chair Dixon at 7:25 PM. No comment was offered. Public comment period closed at 7:26 PM by Chair Dixon. Motion made to approve an order of conditions to allow for the annual autumn 4 foot drawdown of Indian Lake (DEP #102-0428), the installation of a water level gage at the lake outlet and a flow level gage at Bonny Rigg Road, water levels from both these gages will be recorded when a stop log is removed, the maximum drawdown will not exceed 4 feet, the drawdown will begin no earlier than November 1st and not extend beyond November 30th, refill will occur either within 30 days of ice out but no later than 30 April of each year, drawdown flow should aim to not exceed the DCR GEIR guidance flow of 5.2 cfs above inflow, a report will be filed with the Conservation Commission after drawdown each autumn, (Pryor/Brand). MSV with one opposed.

5. **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent from Sherwood Forest Lakes District**, for Lancelot Lake Dam Improvements. **Project Location is Sir Galahad Drive (Map 217, pLots 66 & 255)**. Kate Wilkins and Steve Sroka were present as project representatives. Commissioners visited the site. Project is to rectify deficiencies found during an inspection. The spillway is undersized and the low level outlet has been decommissioned (welded shut). Resource areas impacted by the proposed project include bank, land under water and BVW. Work proposed includes vegetation removal from the embankment and downstream channel per an order from MA Office of Dam Safety to remove vegetation within 20 ft. of dam structures. There will be a pathway installed on the embankment to decrease erosion associated with foot traffic. A coffer dam will be installed to divert water to the downstream channel during construction combined with a drawdown, (S Sroka noted this is a fairly shallow section of the impoundment). The low level outlet will be installed and a channel created resulting in about 200 sq. ft. of resource area alteration. The disturbed area will be revegetated with a wetland seed mix. An operation and maintenance plan, a deficiency noted in dam safety letter, is not a part of this phase of the project, (section 3 lists work associated with this filing). In response to a question about when the drawdown would occur, S Sroka said there is no set schedule but would prefer to do it early in the year. Work will be completed over a couple of months. Question about the changes associate with the low level outlet culvert at the road was explained as a part of a minor change associated with the drainage swale along the road. Second part of this proposed project involves work associated with a diversion channel from an intermittent stream and culvert under Maid Marion Lane. The channel was created when the impoundment was built to supply a secondary source of water. The pipe is in poor condition. The rehabilitation plan proposes the installation of a 12 inch HDP replacement pipe. Access alternatives to the diversion channel were reviewed. The only viable access is from Route 20. Using this route would result in the cutting of a portion of the forest and installing timber mats to allow access through the wetland. About 8 trees will be removed and they will try to save larger trees along the stream channel. Since the lake is predominately spring fed, a question was raised about the amount of water the intermittent brook provides during period when the impoundment is naturally low. When the lake level is low, typically in the later summer season, an intermittent brook would also likely be dry at this time. Public comment opened at 7:49 PM by Chair Dixon. R Ronzio disagreed with several statements and said water does flow into the lake and the recently installed pipe (under an enforcement order) was to get water to the lake. R Ronzio reported that without any inflow from the brook that end of the lake will stagnate. He also noted this area has filled-in with sediment from the stream. R Smith asked a question

about how the lake will refill if work on the dam requires a drawdown in the summer. S Sroka explained refill would occur through groundwater seeps and the diversion channel. S Sroka mentioned the bottom of the (diversion channel) pipe is corroding and if the pipe collapses there will be sink holes and flow beneath the pipe. Public comment closed at 7:54 PM by Chair Dixon. Commission discussed the reworking of the diversion channel and minimizing impact. S Sroka will try to determine seasonal flow through the diversion channel. Agent Larcom reported on her discussion with Mark Stinson of MA DEP about the diversion channel. Motion made to issue an order of conditions for Lancelot Lake dam improvements (DEP 102-0428) with Becket Standard Conditions and additional condition to deliver an O &M plan within 3 months. Motion rescinded. Motion made to continue the hearing for Lancelot Lake Dam improvements at Sir Galahad Drive, (Map 217, Lots 66 & 255/ DEP 102-0428) to the 19 September 2017 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Pryor/Brand). MSV. Chair Dixon requested permission to have Commissioners visit the diversion channel area. Applicant granted permission.

6. **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent from Kathryn and Tom Strohenger**, for the restoration and maintenance of an intermittent stream. **Project location is 303 &307 Old Pond Road (Map 210, Lots 54 &55)**. S Boomsma was in attendance to represent the applicants. Commissioners visited the site. S Boomsma explained runoff flows down the road toward the lake and, because of sediment build up, is threatening the on-site system's leach field. The owners wish to clear out the original channel by hand and remove vegetation in the channel including removing three saplings and to perform annual vegetation removal in the channel segment near the lake. Commissioners requested the annual maintenance area be more clearly defined so the limits of work are obvious. S Boomsma agreed this could be done with rebar or something similar. A question was asked if the proposed cutting, not complete removal, of Japanese knotweed might result in the patch spreading? Discussed if there was any recourse to prevent the road sediment from getting into the channel. Chair Dixon opened the public comment period at 8:27 PM. No comments offered and public comment closed at 8:28 PM by Chair Dixon. Motion made to issue an Order of Conditions for the restoration and maintenance of an intermittent stream at 303 &307 Old Pond Road (Map 210, Lots 54 &55) with Becket Standard Conditions, the 'D2' flag location monumented with rebar at the limit of work, Japanese Knotweed controlled by hand application of an herbicide by a licensed professional or hand removal except by weed whacking, all knotweed must be removed from the site and disposed of appropriately, annual maintenance is limited to the hand removal of sediment accumulation below the leach field and sediment and vegetation removal in the western/roadside segment of the channel as needed, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV.

Chair Dixon recessed the meeting for 5 minutes at 8:35 PM. Chair Dixon reconvened the meeting at 8:41 PM.

7. **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent from Nicole Menage**, for site development associated with a single family house in the buffer-zone of a vegetated wetland. **Project location is 0 Fred Snow Road (Map 408, Lot 99). DEP #102-0427**. S Boomsma was present to represent the applicant. Commissioners visited the site. There is a bordering vegetated wetland running the length of the currently undeveloped parcel. The proposal is to build a house, garage, well, on-site system and a gravel driveway. Features were worked to meet zoning setbacks and the 50 foot greenway setback required by the

Becket Woods Homeowners Association. The on-site system will be a standard infiltration system. Leach field grading will slope to within 25 feet of the resource area. S Boomsma reported siting the leach field farther from the resource area was not feasible because of ledge near the road. Chair Dixon opened the hearing to public comment at 8:42PM. No comment offered. Public comment period closed at 8:43PM. Motion made to issue an Order of Conditions for site development associated with a single family house, garage, well, on-site system and a gravel driveway in the buffer-zone of a vegetated wetland at 0 Fred Snow Road (Map 408, Lot 99/DEP #102-0427) with Becket Standard Conditions, (Pryor/Brand). MSV.

8. **Request for Certificate of Compliance from the Town of Becket, DEP #102-0416**
Commissioners completed a site visit. Agent Larcom requested more information from the engineering consultant but the requested materials had not been received by the time of the meeting. Based on observations made in the field, the compensatory flood storage area shown on the plans has not been constructed preventing the issuing of a CoC. Commissioners noted some rock rip rap has fallen into the stream and an erosion gully has formed on the downstream river right side.
9. **Request for Reissuance of a Certificate of Compliance from Russell Smith, Jr., DEP #102-240.** Agent Larcom explained the original certificate of compliance was not filed with the registry of deeds. Motion made to issue a certificate of compliance for DEP #102-240, (Karlberg/ Brand). MSV.

Old Business:

10. **Request for Determination of Applicability from Jessica Arrowsmith,** for the construction of a barn in the buffer-zone of a vegetated wetland. **Project location 986 Main St., (Map 211, Lot 165).** Commissioners visited site. MA GIS showed wetlands in the vicinity of the proposed barn but wetland specialist J Smith identified wetland only on the south side of the property. This finding was confirmed during the site visit. Motion made to issue a negative determination #1 for Jessica Arrowsmith for the construction of barn at 986 Main Street (Map 211, Lot 165), (Karlberg/Brand). MSV with one abstention.
11. **Request for Determination of Applicability from CSX Transportation, Inc.,** for the confirmation of resource area boundaries along the CSX right-of-way in Becket. Commissioners visited the site. Motion made to issue a positive determination #2A confirming river crossings resource area boundaries along the CSX railroad right-of-way, (Pryor/Karlberg). MSV.
12. **Continued from 5/9/2017: Request for Determination of Applicability from Thomas Smith,** for the clearing of one acre of vegetation within the buffer-zone of various wetlands for conversion to farmed land. **Project location is 244 Otis Road, (Map 204, Lot 232).** Motion to continue this determination of applicability from Thomas Smith for the clearing of one acre of vegetation at 244 Otis Road to the 19 September 2017 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV.
13. **Ratification of the Emergency Certification issued to Mark Karlberg, for the repair of a well connection pipe at 63 Becket West Rd.** Commissioner Karlberg left

the meeting at 9:15 PM. Agent Larcom reported she discussed this project with the health agent. The health agent concurred the situation, to restore a potable water connection, was an emergency. Motion made to ratify the emergency certification for the repair of a well connection pipe at 63 Becket West Road, (Brand/Pryor). MSV.

Mr. Katelin was concerned that his project was continued to the next meeting – five weeks away. Chair Dixon asked if it would be possible to have a special meeting should it be needed. Commissioners Karlberg or Pryor reported their availability would be problematic as they would be away.

Miscellaneous:

The next Becket Conservation Commission will be 19 September to reflect the shift to a third Tuesday of the month schedule. The meeting will be held in the community room every other month starting in September.

Commissioner Karlberg asked if anyone has been able identify residents who may be interested in being on the Commission. Commission discussed the possibility of meeting more than once a month- at least during the busy (spring-summer) season.

Agents Report- nothing reported.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting, (Brand/Pryor). MSV. Chair Dixon adjourned the Becket Conservation Commission meeting at 9:28 PM.