

Town of Becket Conservation Commission

Meeting Notice

Tuesday, March 28th, 2017

Berkshire Room

Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street

At 6:30 PM

RESCHEDULED FROM March 14th, 2017

**Commissioners present Barb Brand, Alison Dixon, Karen Karlberg and Rebecca Perry
Quorum of 4/6, missing Cindy Delpapa, Richard Pryor
Members of public: Shannon Boomsma, Ann Spadafora, Mercedes Gallagher, Dominic Meringolo**

Meeting is called to order at 6:38 PM,

1. Approval of the minutes from February 14th, 2017 meeting:

Minor typos.

Motion made by Karlberg, seconded Brand, to approve the 14 February, 2017 minutes with minor typos corrected. All in favor

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

No comment.

New Business:

3. Request for Certificate of Compliance from Gregory Cohen, represented by White Engineering DEP#102-300, for work conducted at 674 Benton Hill Road (Map 209, Lot 23).

Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering discussed with the board that the OOC for this project was never registered at the registry of deeds. Board and applicant discussed whether an attempt to register the order should occur. Agent Larcom discovered original order in the Town's file. Board discussed potentially continuing the matter until the matter can be discussed with DEP as to how to move forward as order was technically invalid due to failure to file.

Motion to continue until the next regularly scheduled meeting made by Karlberg, seconded by Perry, all in favor. Motion Approved.

4. Public Hearing: Notice of Intent submitted by Gregory Cohen, represented by White Engineering, DEP #102-0419 for the construction of two decks and a septic system upgrade to occur at 674 Benton Hill Road (Map 209, Lot 23).

Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering reviewed the project. Board clarified that decks are to be built on helical piers, *Phragmites* removed, straw waddles for erosion control installed. Dixon opened the meeting to public comment at 7:04 PM.

No public comment. Dixon closed the public hearing at 7:05 PM

Karlberg made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions for DEP #102-0419 with the inclusion of the wetland restoration sequence submitted by White Engineering, conditions; helical piers used for supports, install boulders delineating the wetland area, straw waddles to be installed during work from flags c5 -c8, second by Perry. All in favor. Motion Approved.

5. **Public Hearing: Abbreviated Notice of Intent from Borrego Solar Systems, Inc.**, for the installation of a solar facility at 0 Tanglewood Circle (Map 406, Lots 14 – 20 & 37 – 47).

Meeting opened to public comment at 7:14 PM.

Karlberg contacted the Audubon Society. Tom Lossner, of Mass Audubon, supports renewable energy but this project will result in the removal of 31 acres of forest land that is vital to create a solar farm. Not a private owner, commercial operation.

Karlberg asked if there are higher yield panels that are of greater efficiency requiring fewer acres. The stormwater management plan will require professional consultant review for the Conservation Commission. DCR Service Forester states – no record. Ann Spadafora would rather this be in an alternative location. Read letter in to the record. Mercedes Gallagher agreed with Ann Spadafora comments.

Motion to seek independent consultant for review of the stormwater management plan, Karlberg motion, Brand second. Motion to continue public hearing to April 11th 2017- Karlberg, Perry second. All in favor.

6. **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent submitted by Sherwood Forest Lakes District, represented by SOLitude Lake Management** for various vegetation management methods to occur within the five lakes that abut the homes of residents of the Lake District, methods include herbicide treatment, lake dredging (hydro-raking), and hand-pulling of both nuisance and invasive weeds (Maps 216-218).

Public Hearing is opened with meeting of the minimum submission requirements at the time of opening.

Dominic Meringolo of SOLitude Lake Management discusses the project which seeks to control invasive & nuisance vegetation, to improve wildlife habitat and prevent pollution via eutrophication prevention.

Dominic mentioned that the water quality is good with low phosphorus content and that annual reports have been sent to the board. Hand-pulling meets DCR established guidelines.

For their proposed hydro-raking Meringolo states that here are no large scale definite plans, they plan to try it out on Robinhood lake. The hydro-rake to be used consists of a

york rake attachment to remove vegetation, debris, organic material, no fine grained sediment will be removed, only dead plants, branches, leaves, etc.

Raking location would be on shore every 100ft, with dewatering. Turbidity curtains/ more suspended sediments, nutrients in the water column,

District potentially willing to do some water quality sampling. Work is proposed within 15 feet of the shoreline.

Chair Dixon requested information regarding mapping from previous treatments and how that historical data ties into their long-term plan for management.

Are these stubborn invasives or residents or not doing due diligence to prevent invasives, Chair Dixon questions.

Recess at 8:24PM

Back in session at 8:29 PM

Chair Dixon opened meeting to public comment at 8:29 PM

Mercedes Gallagher comments regarding *Phragmites*, were that they have been managed with weed wacking & hand-cutting. DCR lakes & ponds gave method, about 5 yrs its no longer growing in the water to the point that what is left is extremely minimal.

Old requirements, dead stalks were cut and removed, so that other plants can have room & sunlight.

Gallagher comments on hydro raking, mentions that at DCR's Buckley Dunton spoils were put on private property. Questions if an exact plan of where it would occur and where the spoils were supposed to go is available.

Gallagher and Meringolo discussed with the board that there have been 23 years of different aquatic herbicides – diquat especially, that with any soil disturbance, soil testing or treated as a hazardous waste material and a dewatering plan should be observed with turbidity curtains. Water quality testing, temp, dissolved oxygen, nutrient analysis, plankton, zooplankton. Water quality testing before and after.

Agent Larcom asked for clarification that the intention for hydro-raking is to impede eutrophication, as SOLitude has stated there are no eutrophic conditions in Robinhood Lake.

Gallagher mentions that residents at Center Pond would love hydroraking center pond, would love to deepen the lake and remove weeds, which is Gallagher expresses concern that residents do not know all the ramifications of this type of project and seek these projects for recreational purposes.

Gallagher mentions that the bladderwort at Excalibur Pond, also a species in Center Pond, roots and launches and is an annual plant, timing of the treatment must be before the seeds are dropping with early treatments of flouridine. Other ways of dealing with bladderwort – raking and pulling in floating nets. Timing of treatment with the seeds is essential. High densities of bladderwort are indicative of nutrient loading.

Spiny naiad are easily hand pulled, Gallagher questions long term management strategies, the district has been treating with chemicals forever.

Lancelot Lake, milfoil had been pulled at Lancelot, by Gallagher and Bill Osborn and two divers. Lancelot Lake is 9ft deep throughout, except for the beach end, historically the lake has been hand pulling milfoil by snorkeling, but that has not been sufficient, they need divers but it is possible to hand-pull.

Motion to continue made by Karlberg to April 11th, seconded Brand, all in favor, motion approved.

Old Business:

- 7. Ratification of the Enforcement Order Issued to Paul Aldon Faggioni Jr. for unauthorized resource area alterations taking place at 26 Tyringham Road issued by Agent on 02/24/2017 (Map 401 Lot 12).**

Motion to ratify made by Karlberg, seconded by Brand, motion passed.

- 8. Continuance: Public Hearing for by the Becket Conservation Commission Fee to amend and create fee amounts and regulations as collected by the Conservation Commission.**

Motion to continue made by Perry, Seconded by Karlberg, all in favor, motion approved.

- 9. Request for Determination of Applicability from CSX Transportation for the work of herbicide treatments in the railroad right-of-way as it occurs within the boundaries of, and throughout the Town of Becket. – Continued until 4/11/2016**

Automatically continued

Motion to adjourn made by Brand, seconded by Karlberg, all in favor, motion approved.