

**Town of Becket
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 21st, 2017**

Commissioners in attendance: Alison Dixon (Chair), Barbara Brand, Cindy Delpapa, Karen Karlberg and Agent Mallory Larcom.

Commissioners not in attendance: all present

Members of the public: Ed Gibson (Town of Becket), Mark Levasseur, Meredyth Babcock, Mary Strucklen, Vernice Cowell, Margaret Robitaille (So Cove Assoc.), Andrew Bleier, Victoria Bleier

Chair Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM, introduced the Commissioners, read meeting guidelines and asked if anyone was recording the meeting.

Public input and comment for items not on the agenda.

Mary Stucklen was present asking about the status on her application to join the Commission. Chair Dixon reported the Becket Selectboard reviewed, but did not vote on, her application. The Selectboard members expressed a preference for residents of Becket to serve on local boards and commissions. It is anticipated the Selectboard will vote on the application at their 6 December, 2017 meeting.

Request for Determination of Applicability from South Cove Association, for tree removal in the buffer-zone of Center Pond. Project location is William Road, (Map 211, Lot 48).

Commissioners visited the site noting a damaged hemlock near the shore. Commissioner's expressed concern about the loss of habitat if the tree is cut near or at ground level. A representative of the South Cove Association reported the Association considered the Commissioners' request to leave an approximately 20 foot trunk to maintain habitat. After consideration the Association still wishes to remove the tree in order to avoid paying for tree removal twice anticipating additional tree removal will be needed when the trunk degrades and they consider the tree unattractive but they are willing to plant a replacement tree. Discussion about tree size and species would be appropriate. Association representative agreed to ask the contractor removing the tree to check the tree cavities for birds or other species nesting or roosting before removing the tree. Motion made to issue a negative determination #3 to remove one damage hemlock in the buffer zone of Center Pond, plant a replacement native species tree and monitor to ensure the tree survives at least two years, (Brand/Delpapa). MSV with one opposed.

Public Hearing: Notice of Intent from the Town of Becket, for beach improvements at Center Pond. Project location is Mecum Way, (Map 413, Lot 15) (102-0432).

Commissioners visited the site. M Lavaseur, representing the town, explained the current problems at the public beach and the measures proposed to repair these issues including pulling back the fabric, bringing in coarse sand and regrading the beach. Commissioners asked if moving of the fabric back 5 foot would be adequate or if it should be a greater distance. Commissioners noted erosional gullies throughout the beach during the site visit and recommended including controls to prevent runoff onto the sand. M Lavaseur and E Gibson anticipated the work will be done either before or after the summer 2018 season. A Commissioner asked is if issuing an OOC for this work would also authorize the town to augment the

beach with sand without refiling. It would though E Gibson said the town has not brought in sand the entire time he has worked for Becket. A Commissioner asked for the exact location of the proposed swale. M Lavaseur explained the swale would be about 10 feet off the shoreline and end at the boulder shown on the plan. Commissioner asked what volume of sand will be added to the beach for this project? M Lavaseur will get a figure to the Commission soon. Commission may wish to ask the town to report how much sand when sand is brought in to replenish the beach after this rehabilitation is complete. Commissioners also requested M Lavaseur send the Commission the eventual final slope of the beach since the diagram in the NOI does not have/is not to scale. Agent Larcom produced the earlier plan for beach repair filed as an RDA in July, 2011. She noted this RDA is still valid until August of 2018 (Due to the Permit Extension Act). There was an earlier RDA for beach rehabilitation filed in June, 2011 and authorized on 20 June, 2011. In the plan filed with this slightly earlier RDA there were several erosion control measures planned including a curtain drain and a drain mid-way on the boat ramp to redirect flows into the pond and away from the beach. Chair Dixon opened the hearing for public comment at 7:25 PM. Hearing no comment Chair Dixon closed public comment at 7:26 PM. Motion made to continue the public hearing for the Notice of Intent from the town of Becket for beach improvements at Center Pond (102-0432) to the 19 December, 2017 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV.

Request for reissuance of the Order of Conditions for DEP #102-0418 issued to Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District. This OOC is related to the culvert under Maid Marion Road. The attorney for the Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District reported the original OOC was lost. Motion made to reissue the Order of Conditions for DEP #102-0418 issued to Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District, (Brand/Karlberg). MSV.

Request for a Certificate of Compliance for DEP #102-0406, project location is 266 Tyne Road. Commissioners visited the site and agreed the silt fencing should be removed. Motion made to approve the request for a Certificate of Compliance for 266 Tyne Road, DEP #102-0406. (Karlberg/Brand). MSV.

Request for Certificate of Compliance for DEP #102-0429, project location is 303 & 307 Old Pond Road. Commissioners visited the site. Motion made to issue a partial Certificate of Compliance for conditions #2, 3, and 4 in the NOI, (raking the debris from channel and removal of material from site, the cutting of the flagged trees and the removal of materials in the stream from the culvert to the flagged clump of trees) for DEP #102-0429 at 303 and 307 Old Pond Road. The remaining conditions are for the maintenance of the channel. For this reason, a complete certificate cannot be issued so to allow continued maintenance of the channel for the duration of the permit.(Brand/Karlberg). MSV.

Old Business:

Discussion of the Enforcement Order issued to Andrew Bleier for violations occurring at 0 Yokum Pond Road (Map 409, Lot 30). Commissioners visited the site. V. Bleier asked to record the meeting. The Bleier's provided some background information including their history in Becket. They explained their building permit is on hold until the Commission approves the wetland restoration plan. Owners believe their work is exempt under the minor activities including removal of damaged or

threatening trees that could fall in the road and the building of a driveway to access two or fewer dwellings and land in agricultural use. Clearing occurred in the Riverfront Resource area of Yokum Brook and the driveway appeared to have been widened with sand and gravel brought in. The Bleier's have installed erosion control measures and prepared a restoration plan, a timeline and a materials sourcing list. Agent Larcom responded to some of the exemptions cited explaining maintaining an existing driveway is allowed but if a driveway is widened the exemption does not apply. Agent Larcom and Chair Dixon reviewed aerial photographs (circa 2014) and a picture from a Wild & Scenic site assessment of Yokum Brook. Based on this careful review, it appears some sandy soil were placed over an existing herbaceous layer. Suggestions made by Commissioners to change the proposed wetland seed mixture to a native blend for dry and shady conditions to ensure successful long term survival. Commission recommended the land owners consider pulling back the soils at the bank before planting and the possibility of using soil from elsewhere on the site. Commissioner Karlberg asked that the toppled over tree be left as it is because of its value as wildlife habitat. The Bleier's will also be putting in some saplings and bird boxes. M Babcock, a representative of the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee, explained the mission of the federal Wild & Scenic program and welcomes a dialogue with the land owners. M Babcock provided the owners with materials about riparian care and offered to arrange a clean-up day to help with litter removal along the road. Commission noted the steepness of the terrain on the site visit and recommended the owners consider the utility of installing rock check dams in the swale alongside the driveway to slow the runoff and encourage infiltration as this would help protect the driveway from erosion. Motion to approve the filed restoration plan for 0 Yokum Pond Road, (Map 409, Lot 30) with the following changes: eliminate the proposed blueberry bushes and increase the number of saplings, pull back the sand/soil from the river bank, determine if native plants recolonize naturally in the first season, use the proposed NE wetland native seed mix in the swale and fescue/upland native seed mixture in the triangle area, leave all downed trees and coarse woody habitat in place, leave the erosion control in place until the disturbed area stabilize and re-vegetates and agent or Commissioner(s) inspect the site, and install check dams in the swale every 2 or so meters to reduce erosive forces The Commission would revisit the site in the spring to review how the impacted area was repairing. (Karlberg/Brand). MSV.

Chair Dixon called a brief recess at 8:27 PM. Meeting called back to order at 8:33 PM

Continued from 8/8/2017: 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).** Neither the applicants nor a representative were in attendance. Agent Larcom reported the applicant has not contacted the office. Several Commissioners visited the site and recommended a professional wetland scientist be engaged to delineate the resource areas. A letter was sent to the applicant two months ago respectfully asking for additional information. Motion to continue the Public Hearing on the Notice of Intent for DEP #102-0431 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 at 0 Yokum Pond Road, (Map 409, Lot 3) to the 19 December 2017 Becket Conservation Commission, (Brand/Karlberg). MSV.

Continued from 8/8/2017: Public Hearing: Notice of Intent from Sherwood Forest Lakes District, for Lancelot Lake Dam Improvements. **Project Location is Sir Galahad Drive (Map 217, Lots 66 & 255). The Lakes District had contacted Agent Larcom and requested a continuance.** Motion made to continue the Public Hearing for the Notice of Intent for DEP #102-0430 from Sherwood Forest Lakes District for Lancelot Lake Dam Improvements at Sir Galahad Drive, (Map

217, Lots 66 & 255) to the 19 December, 2017 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV.

Discussion of the Enforcement Order issued to Stephen and Geraldine Galliher for violations occurring at 1035 Benton Hill Road. Agent Larcom received an electronic copy of the NOI today, (11/21/2017) and reported the town filing fees have not been paid. Commission agreed to resume discussion of this matter when the public hearing for the NOI is scheduled. Motion to end the discussion of the Enforcement Order issued to Stephen and Geraldine Galliher for violations occurring at 1035 Benton Hill Road, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV.

Ratification of the Emergency Certification issued to Diane Belouin for the breach of two beaver dams at 71 Bruce Roy Lane. Agent Larcom reported the end date for the emergency certification was 17 November, 2017. Motion made to ratify the emergency certification issued to Diane and Bernie Belouin for the breach of two beaver dams at 71 Bruce Roy Lane, (Brand/ Karlberg). MSV.

Ratification of the Emergency Certification issued to Mark Boomsma for the breach of two beaver dams at 71 Chester Road. Agent Larcom reported the end date for the emergency certification was 17 November, 2017. Motion made to ratify the emergency certificate issued to Mark Boomsma for the breach of two beaver dams at 71 Chester Road, (Brand/ Karlberg). MSV.

Approval of the minutes from the October 17th, 2017 meeting.

Motion made to approve the minutes of the 17 October, 2017 meeting with corrections, (Karlberg/Dixon). MSV with one abstention.

Miscellaneous:

- **Review any pertinent correspondence received, and upcoming items.** Agent Larcom did receive one item of correspondence and will send it to Commissioners. Center Pond will be submitting an NOI for an herbicide application probably for the next meeting.
- **Agent's Report:**
Update on third-party review for Borrego Solar at Tanglewood Circle. Tighe & Bond staff are at the site bi-weekly when there is no significant earth moving and will be out weekly when the level of work increases. Tighe & Bond is submitting bi-weekly reports on stormwater measures. Additional funds may be required to cover the inspection fees.

Additional discussion about the activity observed during site visits on Tyne Road where a stormwater channel was created (recently) to redirect runoff to an intermittent stream. Consensus was reached to discuss the issue with the Becket DPW.

Commissioners discussed the hiring of a new agent. Chair Dixon will send out a job description. Commissioners will need to maintain the office for at least a month. Commissioners thanked Agent Larcom and wished her well at her new position.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting, (Karlberg/Brand). MSV. Chair Dixon adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM.

Action Items:

1. Agent Larcom to forward correspondence received to Commissioners.
2. Discuss the Tyne Road drainage work with Becket DPW.
3. Commissioners disseminate the conservation agent job description to any one they feel may be interested.