

Town of Becket Conservation Commission Tuesday, June 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance: Alison Dixon (Chair), Barbara Brand, Cindy Delpapa, Mary Stucklen, and Conservation Agent Stacy Parsons
Commissioner(s) not present: Karen Karlberg

Members of the public present: Ralph Casioppo, Jeff Smith, David Lenard, Barbra Wacholder, Mark Volk, Chris Bouchard, Bill Elovirta, Steve Rosenthal, Richie Pryor, Karin Koff

Chair Dixon called the 26 June 2018 Becket Conservation Commission to order at 6:31 PM, read the meeting guidelines, introduced the Commissioners and Conservation Agent, and asked if anyone present was recording the meeting. No one was recording the meeting.

Public input and comment for items not on the Agenda. None offered.

New Business

A Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Janice and Mark Rosenman: The project proposes the installation of a non-permanent dock on Robin Hood Lake. (Map 216, Lot 446D). Commission visited the site. The applicant sent a request to the Commission to amend the RDA asking to install a 30 foot walkway. The walkway would be elevated by placing timbers on the ground to support 2 inch by 10 inch planking to create the walkway. No additional vegetation removal or digging will be required. The dock will be seasonal. Motion made to issue a negative determination #3 for the installation of a seasonal dock and the creation of an elevated pathway to the dock at 402 Alan A Dale Drive, (Map 216, Lot 466D), (Brand/Stucklen). MSV.

A Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by the Town of Becket: The project proposes the demolition of a single family residence at 21 Maple Street, (Map 206, Lot 86). The residence is within 85'-90' of Shaker Brook. Commission visited the site. The RDA should be amended to note the work is within the riverfront of Yokum Brook not Shaker Mill Brook. The house will be demolished and the cellar hole filled with clean fill. Erosion control will be installed between the work area and the brook. The disturbed area will be reseeded and covered with hay, if needed, at the end of the demolition work. A question was asked concerning the plan for dealing with the septic system. B Elovirta reported the well will be decommissioned as will the septic system though the exact location of the septic system is not known. C Bouchard, Becket Highway Dept., anticipated the removal of trees in the area and definitely all dead trees will be removed. The limit of work will have to be sufficiently ample to allow an excavator to move completely around the house. Chair Dixon asked that there be erosion control at least 50 feet away from Yokum Brook. Excavate will be loaded directly into dumpsters and taken off site. Commission asked if an underground storage tank(s) is located on the site. C Bouchard responded that this is an unknown. Motion made to issue a negative determination #2 for the demolition of the property at 21 Maple Street with the following conditions: the erosion control line will serve as the limit of work and be at least 50 feet away from Yokum Brook, the septic system will be decommissioned appropriately by pumping and either left in place and filled with clean sand or complete removal from the property, existing vegetation will be preserved to the maximum extent possible, the standing dead spruce may be removed, all demolition material will be placed directly into trucks and taken off site to be disposed of properly and standard Becket Conditions, (Stucklen/Brand). MSV with one abstention since the RDA was not available for review.

A Bundled Notice of Intent DEP #102 438 submitted by the Town of Becket Highway Department: The project proposes the anticipated yearly maintenance projects typically performed by the Highway Department within areas subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Public hearing opened at 6:58 PM by Chair Dixon. M Volk was present to explain the project on behalf of the Town. The bundled NOI is for maintenance work, road repairs & resurfacing, and catch basin cleaning. The Town has not received a response from MA Natural Heritage. Commission noted the culverts proposed for replacement were not specifically identified. C Bouchard explained the culverts slated for replacement are storm water culverts and not associated with stream crossings. Commission requested the locations of the beaver deceivers be provided as part of the filing. The applicant will gather this information and will also attempt to identify where the anticipated storm water culverts replacements are located. Another culvert question was posed regarding the two bullets on page 5- the 7th bullet identifies culvert replacements associated with intermittent stream crossings. Applicant agreed this was included in error and will be eliminated. Commission requested the applicant's representative provide an electronic version of the NOI. In an email from MA DEP, the reviewer recommended the Order of Conditions be issued for five years. Commission discussed how often the DPW should submit a report on project work and consensus was to have an annual report due by November 1 of each year. Chair Dixon opened the hearing to the public at 7:20 PM. R Pryor suggested any agreed to changes in the NOI be initialized Applicant and Commission agreed to continue the hearing to the 24 July, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting when it is likely the response from the MA Natural Heritage will have been received. Applicant's representative will send an updated plan with the location of the beaver deceivers to be maintained under this NOI and an electronic copy of the NOI.

A Request for Determination submitted by the Sherwood Forest Lake District for beach nourishment at six beaches located within the Lake District. S Rosenthal was present to represent the Lake District. This is a request to extend permitted activities the Lake District has been doing since 2011 involving the six beaches in the District. The Lake District does not nourish every year. S Rosenthal explained sand was brought in during 2015 or 2016 and additional sand in late spring of 2018 before the permit expired in May 2018. He further explained the Lake District does not have any immediate plans to bring in sand but they do wish to have a valid permit in case the need arises. Commissioner asked the approximate volume of sand is applied to the beaches. S Rosenthal believed the two big beaches get a full truck load of sand while the smaller beaches are supplied with a third of a truck load. On Big Robin there has been some planting to help lessen erosive forces and redirect runoff to the grass. The beaches have quite modest slopes and the sand is not placed at the water's edge. The Lake District notifies the Conservation Agent before and after the sand applications. Agent Parson recommended to the District consider filing an NOI for a lake management plan as an NOI/Order of Conditions does not have to be renewed as frequently as a RDA. Motion made to issue a negative determination #3 to undertake beach nourishment at the six beaches identified in the RDA application and the applicant notify the Commission at least 5 business days prior to any sand application, (Brand/Stucklen). MSV.

A Request for Determination submitted by the Indian Lake Association for the cleaning and inspection of toe drains on the Indian Lake Dam. Commission visited the site. R Cosioppo of Tighe & Bond, representing the applicant, explained the toe drains have not been cleaned since the dam was built. He updated the plan to say excavation may not be necessary as they plan to scope the drains and will 'blow out' the drains if there is modest clogging. Pipes will be located using a metal detector. If blowing out the drains is not sufficient the contractor will use three small excavations to gain access to clear the toe drain and elbow. An excavator will be used on the left side of the dam where there is access and the right side will be hand dug. Will hand place sand bags at the outlet to capture the

material from the pipe which will be vacuummed. All of the extracted material from the drains will be hauled away in a vacuum truck. Only the excavate will be temporarily stored at the site. An erosion guard and erosion control will be installed prior to this work. B Wacholder mentioned this work might be done in association with the annual drawdown if conditions in August were not amenable to the work. The inspection and cleaning is anticipated to take one day. D Lenart asked if this work was filed with the MA Office of Dam Safety. R Cosioppo reported the paperwork was filed and the Office of Dam Safety and told a permit was not needed. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the Commission.. Motion made to issue a negative determination # 3 to allow for the cleaning of toe drains at Indian Lake dam with the following conditions- Indian Lake Association will inform the Commission if the work will be postponed past August and provide the anticipated new work window, (Stucklen/Brand). MSV.

Continuing Business

Continuation of the public hearing for **Notice of Intent** submitted by the Crystal Pond Homeowners Association for the proposed dam repairs including tree removal and rip rap armoring of the bank. Project location is Crystal Pond Dam. (Map 413, Lot 75). Commission visited the site. D Lenart presented on behalf of the applicant. Recommend the Commission be informed of who the local contact person is relative to issues with the dam. The dam will be kept as grass at all times to prevent problems. J Smith provided an Army Corps self-evaluation form to the Commission earlier in the meeting showing no Corps approval is needed. Noted there is a listed bat species in the area but the trees being removed are saplings and the one larger tree is not a species the bats prefer. Motion made to issue an Order of Conditions for the proposed dam repairs of Crystal Pond Dam (DEP #102-0437, Map 413, Lot 75) with these additional conditions: chipping will be allowed to be spread in the woods at a depth no greater than 3 inches, all inspection reports will be made available to the Commission for review upon request, the name of the local dam monitor and back-up monitor will be provided to the Commission, disturbed areas be revegetated and restored, a CoC be requested within 30 business days of the work being completed, (Stucklen/Brand). MSV. D Lenart requested he be sent a copy of the OoC with a paper copy to Michael Rhein. D Lenart also informed the Commission the valve in the pond is leaking and divers will be plugging the leak until a plan for repair can be developed. This will result in no flow from the dam though there may be some water in the stream from some other sources. It will take a couple of months of planning and perhaps a year before there is an NOI for the repair. Some discussion about the need for maintaining flow downstream by placing a siphon.

Update on enforcement order issued to Andrew Bleier for property on Yokum Pond Road (Map 409, Lot 30 – the location was recently assigned a number of 307 Yokum Pond Road). The owners were required to complete some restoration work in a disturbed area adjacent to Yokum Pond but no restoration work has been observed. The Commission received a letter in May to report the owners installed a gate under the agricultural exemption. Consensus was to undertake a site visit as this work was to be completed by 30 June 2018.

Additional Items

Approval of May 15, 2018 and June 12, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting minutes. Motion made to approve the Becket Conservation Commission 15 May, 2018 minutes, (Stucklen/Brand). MSV with one abstention. Motion made to approve the Becket Conservation Commission 12 June, 2018 meeting minutes with minor corrections, (Stucklen/Delpapa) MSV with one abstention.

Commission received a copy of the BRP WW06 Simplified License Application submitted to DEP by Russell Smith, Jr., 55 Tecumseh Drive, for a dock located on Center Pond. The waterway license was added to the file.

Review and vote specific to request for Cindy Delpapa representing the Conservation Commission on the Community Preservation Committee. Motion to nominate Cindy Delpapa to be the Becket Conservation Commission representative on the Becket Community Preservation Committee, (Brand/Stucklen). MSV with one abstention (Delpapa). The signed form with the minutes showing the vote must be provided to the town clerk.

General Mail- MACC dues are due soon, (\$137). The new Forestry MOU was sent to a broad audience electronically.

Other business not reasonably foreseen 48 hours prior to the meeting.

M Stucklen described an MACC sponsored week-long wetland workshop in July in Maine. The training will cover a broad range of topics (e.g. hydrology, delineation) and she feels this intensive workshop would be a valuable training for her. The registration cost is \$595, camping at the site is \$55, and other costs (transportation, meals, etc.) will bring the total to attend to about \$1,000. Motion made to authorize up to \$1000 to cover the costs for M Stucklen to attend the MACC week long wetlands training in July, (Delpapa/Brand). MSV.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting, (Delpapa/Stucklen) Chair Dixon adjourned the meeting at 9:08 PM.

Next meeting: July 24, 2018, Berkshire Room, 6:30 pm

Site visits – a Doodle Poll may be sent to determine the best date(s)

Action Items:

1. M Volk will provide an electronic copy of the Becket Bundled NOI with the correction on page 5 and with the information on the beaver deceiver locations and potentially the locations of anticipated storm water culvert replacements.
2. R Cosioppo will forward the Office of Dam Safety decision to the Commission concerning Indian Lake dam toe drain cleaning.
3. Site visit to 307 Yokum Pond Road to confirm the restoration work required under an enforcement order has been completed.