



Town of Becket
Board of Health
557 Main Street
Becket, Massachusetts 01223
(413) 623-8934 ext. 22 fax 623-6036

Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2017

Board Members Present: Gale LaBelle, Chairman; I. David Krawet, Treasurer

Board Members Absent: Laurel Burgwardt

Administrative Assistant: Jessica Perotti, taking minutes

Public Present: Robert Beatty, Ronald Lavigne, Joseph Marino, Robert and Tami Scott, Shannon Boomsma and Melva Norton

Call to Order

Gale LaBelle calls the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Ms. LaBelle goes over the rules of the meeting and asks that everyone attending to please sign in and offers agendas to anyone that would like a copy.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2017

Mr. Krawet **makes a motion** to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2017 meeting. Ms. LaBelle **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes** to approve the meeting minutes of September 13, 2017. Ms. LaBelle and Mr. Krawet sign the September 13, 2017 meeting minutes.

Reports from Health Agent, Charlie Kaniecki

88 Greenwood Court: Ms. LaBelle reads an email from Charlie Kaniecki reporting that he has reviewed the plans and requires verification that the percolation/deep hole tests were witnessed by a representative of the Board before the permit be issued. Ms. LaBelle asks for verification of the perc test being witnessed by a Board of Health representative. Ronald Lavigne reports that the test was performed by Peter Franz. Ms. LaBelle asks how long ago the test was done because Mr. Franz is retired. Mr. Lavigne says the property owner, Melva Norton, would be to the meeting shortly and has that information. Mr. Lavigne describes the land that is owned by the Norton's and the location of the current septic tank letting the Board know that the current tank is overflowing and has been for about a year now. Mr. Lavigne goes over the distances from the well and the proposed septic tank which meet all the requirements of Title V. Ms. LaBelle asks again for verification of when the percolation test was done and if it was witnessed by a representative of the Board. Mr. Lavigne gets up to point out this information on the plan. Ms. LaBelle sees that the test was done in 2012 and witnessed by William Robinson who was on the Board in 2012. Melva Norton arrives to the meeting and verifies that Mr. Robinson was there. Ms. Norton says she didn't bring the percolation test information with her tonight. Ms. LaBelle says that since the percolation test was witnessed by a Board Member that the permit could be issued. Ms. Norton will call the office with the name of the septic installer once she has finished getting estimates. Ms. LaBelle confirms with Ms. Perotti that the fee for the application has been paid and she is current on her taxes. Mr. Krawet **makes a motion** to accept the plans for 88



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Greenwood Court and issue the permit. Ms. LaBelle **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**. Ms. LaBelle signs the permit and Ms. Perotti makes a copy for the files.

115 Mallard Drive: Ms. LaBelle reads an email from Charlie Kaniecki saying that the plan is within the scope of 310 CMR 15.000 and should be passed with an infiltrator leaching trench system. Ms. LaBelle **makes a motion** that the plan for 115 Mallard Drive be accepted with the condition it be installed with an infiltrator leaching trench system per Charlie Kaniecki. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes** to accept the plan for 115 Mallard Drive, with the condition set by Charlie Kaniecki.

250 Wells Road

Ms. LaBelle reads an email from Charlie Kaniecki recommending that the permit is issued. Ms. LaBelle asks if the taxes for this property are current. Ms. Perotti says the taxes are behind but the homeowner reported to the Tax Office that it is a condition of the sale that the taxes will be paid by the buyer of the house on the condition that a new septic system is installed. Ms. Perotti reports further that the application fee has also been paid. Ms. LaBelle **makes a motion** to approve the plan for 250 Wells Road. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes** to approve the septic plan for 250 Wells Road.

New Business

Discussion of Beaver Dams at 71 Chester Road

The Board recognizes again Mr. Lavigne to discuss the problems the beavers are causing Joseph Marino at the Becket Motel. Mr. Lavigne gives a description of what he has witnessed and discovered. Mr. Lavigne was contacted by Mr. Marino to do a Title V inspection. When Mr. Lavigne went for a preliminary look at the system, he flipped the covers up on the tank and it was clear to him that the drain field which was further down slope was in the water table. He noted that the ground was about 2 feet under water and may be even higher now. Mr. Lavigne reports that he went next door to Papa Bob's to discuss the situation and he says they were in total agreement and would be willing to hire a beaver trapper to take care of the situation. There are 3 dams total- in a row- that cascade down and are pooling about 4 feet of water now based on the bottom of the dam and where the water is coming over the top. Mr. Lavigne reminds the Board that there is a campground downstream. Joseph Marino, owner of the Becket Motel, does have an interested buyer with a potential closing date. Mr. Lavigne then speaks of past Title V inspections that were done which passed with the water table at 4 feet. Discussions continue about the health threats caused by beavers. Mr. Lavigne reminds the Board that beavers carry giardia lamia, also known as beaver fever. Mr. Marino tells the Board that beavers haven't been a problem for the last couple of years. Ms. LaBelle asks Mr. Marino and Mr. Lavigne what they



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would like the Board to do. Mr. Lavigne asks that an emergency beaver permit be issued. Ms. LaBelle says she thought that one was already issued. Ms. Perotti tells the Board that one has been filled out but still needed the name of the beaver trapper they will be using. Tami Scott, owner of Papa Bob's, gives the name of the trapper they plan to use to Ms. Perotti. Mr. Marino just wants a date that the trapping will be complete. Mr. Lavigne is unclear what the Conservation Commission's role is in declaring an emergency regarding beavers. Mr. Lavigne says that he noticed pooling problems next door at Papa Bob's also and informs them that they may still have problems too. Ms. Scott feels that another culvert should be put in or some dams should be taken out to get the water level down. Ms. LaBelle asks if anyone has spoken to Michael Callahan about the situation to see if water leveling devices could be used. Ms. Perotti tells the Board that Mr. Callahan was there and reported that the water leveling devices won't work in this circumstance and recommended trapping and possibly taking out a dam if Conservation would allow it. Mr. Lavigne recommended Mark Boomsma to take out the dams. Ms. Scott said she would check out his costs. Ms. Scott asks if there are grants for removing dams. Mr. Lavigne says that the Army Corps of Engineers at federal level and the Department of Environmental Protection at state level both have procedural guidelines that they put on the internet that would indicate where the waters flow. It could get all the way down to the Connecticut River. Mr. Lavigne volunteers to do research to clarify if authorization from Conservation is needed to breach a dam. He also says he will find out about any grants that may be available to help with their situation. Mr. Lavigne wants the Board to declare it an emergency to bypass doing an **RDA (Request for Determination of Applicability)** or an **NOI (Notice of Intent)** which would take months and this needs to be taken care of immediately. Mr. Krawet asks how long it would take to get a grant approved. Mr. Lavigne says the grant, if available, could be paid retroactively and that they wouldn't need to wait for that approval to do what needs to be done. Mr. Lavigne repeats the 2 biggest health threats: beavers carry giardia lamia, aka beaver fever and the other, perhaps considered a bigger problem, is that there is no separation between the bottom of the drain field and the ground water. This means that E. coli and other forms of bacteria that may be in the drain field are going to get out into Walker Brook which leads directly down to a trailer/campground park where kids play in the water. This is certainly a public health risk. Ms. LaBelle **makes a motion** that this be declared an emergency and that the beavers should be trapped. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**. Mr. Lavigne requests that a letter be written to go along with the permit stating that the Board of Health is declaring this a public health risk. Ms. LaBelle agrees that a letter will be written. Ms. LaBelle also issues a 10 day emergency beaver permit to the Scott's to begin trapping October 9, 2017. Mr. Lavigne refers Mark Boomsma to breach and remove the beaver dams as he has done a lot of this type of work. Ms. LaBelle reads from the 10 day emergency beaver permit that the Conservation Commission is responsible to issue permits for dam breaching. Ms. LaBelle says



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she will talk to Mallory Larcom, Conservation Agent, about the beaver situation here to ensure she understands the seriousness of it and issues a permit to breach the dams.

Change in well location at 3805 Jacob's Ladder Road

The Board recognizes Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering to discuss the well at 3805 Jacob's Ladder Road. Ms. Boomsma lets the Board know that they would like to move the location of the well making it approximately two (2) feet closer to Jacob's Ladder Road/Route 20. This puts the well under the driveway so they would like to put it in a manhole with a water tight cover. Ms. Boomsma informs the Board she discussed the change with Charlie Kaniecki through email and he was agreeable to it. Ms. LaBelle reads the email from Mr. Kaniecki. Mr. Krawet **makes a motion** to accept the change in well location as submitted for 3805 Jacob's Ladder Road. Ms. LaBelle **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes** to change the well location as submitted by the applicant.

1909 Jacob's Ladder Road

A well drilling permit was sent in from Berkshire Geo Technologies for this location but it did not have the name of the well driller on it. Ms. Perotti tried several times to call them but was unable to leave a message because their voicemail was full. Ms. Perotti is holding their check until they give the name of the well driller they would like to use. Ms. LaBelle questions what will be done with the old house that is on the property. Ms. Perotti informs the Board that she spoke with Bill Girard, Building Inspector, about the property. She conveys that he was told that they would like to fix up the house that is there to stay in while they build their house which would probably be about a five (5) year project. Once the main house is complete, the renovated house would only be able to be used for storage or office space and could not be used as a house; this way, there won't be two (2) dwellings on one lot. Ms. Perotti asks if they would like her to send Berkshire Geo Technologies a letter to ask for the name of the well driller they would like to use. Ms. LaBelle agrees that a letter should be sent to them.

Correspondence

The Board reviews mail received for the past month. They first review notices concerning environmental issues. There was a small diesel oil spill at 22 Wade Inn Road which is being cleaned up. Camp Greylock received a notice from **MassDEP (Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection)** to update their water pressure relief valve and to replace their water storage tank which will need to be done by April 2018. Bonny Rigg received a notice from MassDEP that the water filling the pool needs to be above the water surface and not below. Camp Lenox received a notice from MassDEP that their water evaluator is not fully certified and needs to be fully certified for the next season. Camp Lenox is also required to replace the failing



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hydropneumatic storage tank. Mountain Grove Association received a monitoring violation from MassDEP for not testing their water properly in August. MassDEP is requiring that they provide a water testing plan, in writing, to MassDEP. The Board moves on to an email regarding beaches; year-end water testing reports will need to be sent to the state. The Board reviews other emails regarding tax statuses of those with have applied for applications; taxes are current on all. The house on map/lot 212/25 will be moving forward in the receivership program; a demand letter will be sent to the bank controlling the property to make all necessary repairs. Well Regulations were sent to Mass DEP. The Board reviews multiple emails regarding applications and notices from other departments and applicants regarding current applications. The Board received an invitation for the **B.C.B.O.H.A.'s (Berkshire County Boards of Health Association)** Fall Dinner Meeting on November 9, 2017. The cost is \$35 per person to attend. Ms. LaBelle and Mr. Krawet decide they will go to the dinner. Ms. LaBelle **makes a motion** that \$70 come out of the budget to pay for the cost of the dinners. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes** to take \$70 from the budget for Ms. LaBelle and Mr. Krawet to attend the B.C.B.O.H.A. Fall Dinner. There will be ServSafe training on October 31, 2017 in North Adams; this training provides the ability to perform kitchen inspections. The Board reviews invoices received for the past month. Ms. Perotti shows the Board an invoice from last month for \$265 for water testing; it was discussed but a motion wasn't made for money to come out of the budget. Ms. LaBelle **makes a motion** on the invoice from Housatonic Basin for \$265 from last month be paid. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**. The Board looks over two (2) other invoices from Housatonic Basin for beach and labs tests; one is for \$115.00 and the other for \$260.00. Ms. LaBelle **makes a motion** for these invoices to be paid. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. Motion passes.

Adjournment

Ms. LaBelle **makes a motion** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Krawet **seconds the motion**. All in favor. **Motion passes**; meeting is adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Next meeting is set for November 1, 2017.

Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved on November 1, 2017 by:


Gale LaBelle, Chairman


I. David Krawet, Treasurer