



Town of Becket  
Planning Board  
557 Main Street  
Becket, Massachusetts 01223  
Phone (413) 623-8934 Ext. 20

## Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2017

**Planning Board Members Present:** Robert Ronzio; Ann Krawet; Alvin Blake; Charles Andrews-  
arriving at 7:15 PM

**Board Members Absent:** James Levy and Gale LaBelle

**Public Present:** Arthur Nappo, Peter Puciloski and Jennie Clark

**Administrative Assistant:** Jessica Perotti, taking Minutes

### Call to Order

Mr. Ronzio, opens the meeting at 7:08 PM and announces there are Meeting Agendas on the table for anyone that wants a copy. He informs all that the meeting is being held in accordance with Massachusetts General Law (MGL) 40A and the By-laws of the Town of Becket. A decision to issue a special permit requires a minimum of four positive votes from a five member board. Mr. Ronzio informs all, as a provision of the open meeting law, MGL 30A, Section 20 and asks if anyone in the audience is going to be making a video or audio recording of this session or to transmit this meeting through any media. Mr. Ronzio introduces the present Planning Board Members and Administrative Assistant.

### Board Members Comments and Announcements

Mr. Blake informs all of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's dinner with a discussion on Large Scale Solar projects to be held on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Mr. Blake announces he will be attending. Ms. Krawet states she will be attending also.

### Review of Meeting Minutes- May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Tabled until next meeting.

### Board Reorganization

Mr. Ronzio announces the Board will now reorganize following the annual Town Election. There are 3 positions on the Board – The Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk. There is a fourth position, should the clerk not be present, called the Clerk pro Tem. Mr. Ronzio asks if someone would like to nominate someone for the Chair position. Ms. Krawet nominates Robert Ronzio for the Chair position. Mr. Andrews seconds the motion. Mr. Ronzio calls for any other nominations. No other nominations made. Mr. Ronzio accepts the nomination and calls for a vote. All in favor. Motion passes to have Robert Ronzio continue as Planning Board Chair. Mr. Ronzio calls for a nomination for the Clerk position. Mr. Blake nominates Ann Krawet. Mr. Andrews seconds the nomination. No other nominations. Ann Krawet accepts the nomination. Mr. Ronzio calls for a vote. All in favor. Motion passes to elect Ann Krawet to continue as Planning Clerk. The Board suspends the reorganization until all members can be present.



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### Public Hearing – Borrego Solar Systems, Inc.

Mr. Ronzio informs Peter Puciloski, an attorney representing Borrego Solar Systems, Inc., that 4 positive votes, from a 5 member board, are needed to approve their application. If only 4 Members are present, the Applicant must be given the option to defer the meeting to a 5 Member Board. Mr. Ronzio asks Mr. Puciloski if he would be willing to be heard before a 4 Member Board. Mr. Puciloski says he is willing to be heard before a 4 Member Board. Mr. Ronzio opens the Public Hearing at 7:18 PM. Mr. Puciloski begins his case for the fence surrounding the solar panels. He states the Town of Becket By-laws restricts the height of boundary fences to 6 feet. The National Electric Code requires a 6 foot fence with barbed wire on top or a 7 foot fence surrounding solar fields. Because the barbed wire could cause injury to animals, they would like to have the 7 foot chain link fence. The Conservation Commission has requested that it be raised 6 inches from the ground so that smaller animals could pass through. Technically, that makes the fence 7 & ½ feet high. The Board discusses solar arrays in other towns and why the restrictions are needed as well as other alternatives. Mr. Puciloski reminds the Board their site plans have been approved and the appeal period has run out; the only issue they are facing now is the height of the fence. The Board refers to the Becket By-laws, section 4.3.2.2, for further clarification. Mr. Ronzio asks for any letters from the abutters to the project. Ms. Perotti presents a letter from Scott Levy and briefly states that he would like to have greenery woven into the fencing that would be seen from his property. Mr. Ronzio reads the letter into the record. Letter attached. Jennie Clark raises her hand and informs the Board she also is an abutter to the project. Mr. Ronzio reads Mr. Levy's letter into the record. Based on the illustration provided by Mr. Levy, the Board decides approximately 800 feet of fencing would need to be greened out in the Northeast corner. Mr. Ronzio suggests black may be a better color. Mr. Puciloski says they could have whatever color they would like to have in the fence. Ms. Clark stands and repeats she is an abutter to the project, right next to it. She states she has objected to the project since the start. She claims she was not notified of the ZBA meeting that passed the project. Mr. Ronzio reminds her that this is not that Board. She continues on to say she also does not want to see the panels from her backyard. She asks how much of a buffer will be between her property line and the panels. They refer to the maps. The Board then refers to the Town's website to see the map of Ms. Clark's property. Mr. Ronzio asked Mr. Puciloski if they would be willing to cover the fencing near Ms. Clark's property as well. Mr. Puciloski says it will not be a problem. Ms. Clark says she will take anything to make it look better. Mr. Ronzio tells Ms. Clark she can choose black or green to be weaved into the fence near her property. After excusing herself to call her husband, Ms. Clark returns to the meeting to let the Board know they would also like green for in the fencing. Mr. Ronzio announces both areas of fencing nearing abutters will be green. Mr. Ronzio asked Mr. Puciloski if the Board could give him the exact measurements of screening in the Northwest corner that will need to have the green woven into the fencing on a later date but estimated it would be approximately the same length as the Northeast corner. Mr. Puciloski agrees that will be fine. Mr. Ronzio inquires if all permits have been paid. Mr. Puciloski confirms that he has a copy of the canceled check. Mr. Ronzio asks the Board if they have any further input. They do not. Mr. Ronzio asks the public if they had any further input or comments. They do not. Mr. Ronzio closes the hearing at 7:46 PM. Mr. Ronzio explains the Board will now discuss the application, share



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any views they may have, identify relevant and credible evidence, assess the compliance with standards and then vote on the application. There is some discussion between the Board, Ms. Clark and Mr. Puciloski. The Board then writes their comments regarding their decision and also to cast their vote on the application. A motion is made by Ms. Krawet to take a vote on Borrego Solar Systems, Inc.'s application for a fence that will be 7 & ½ feet high with portions camouflaged by green material. Mr. Blake seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes to call for a vote. Mr. Ronzio then calls for the vote:

- Robert Ronzio: Approve; I approve the Borrego Solar System, Inc. Special Permit Application for a fence to exceed the 6 foot height limitation set forth in the By-law 4.3.2.2, to be in compliance with National Electric Code 11.0.31 which states that the fence must be 6 feet with barbed wire. Additionally, the Conservation Commission had included a requirement that a 6 inch gap above the ground is required making the fence 7 and ½ feet. Lastly, the Applicant has agreed to install camouflage material to satisfy the abutter requirements.
- Ann Krawet: Approve; I approve Borrego Solar Inc. Application for a fence which exceeds the 6' height limitation set forth in Becket Code 4.3.2.2 because Applicant has shown the installation is required to conform to NEC 11.0.31 and because the Applicant has promised to partially camouflage the fence at 2.1 meters/7 feet plus the added one half (1/2) foot addition which provides a pass-through for animals and because such camouflage will preserve the natural scenic rural look of the neighborhood.
- Charles Andrews: Approve; I approve the Application submitted by Borrego Solar Systems, Inc.
- Alvin Blake: Approve; I approve the application for Borrego Special Permit for a fence to exceed the 6 foot height limitation set forth in By-laws 4.3.2.2 as it's required by National Electric Code 11.0.31.

The application is approved.

### **Special Permit Application: 1725 Main St.**

The Board reviews an application for the addition of a deck at this location. The Board locates where the property is located on the maps. The Board looks over surveys of the land and also plans for the proposed deck. Property owner, Arthur Nappo, answers questions from the Board regarding his property and the deck. They discuss the size of the house, the proposed deck size and setback requirements. Mr. Nappo informs the Board he is planning on putting an addition of a bedroom sometime in the near future as well as the deck. The Board decides a Special Permit is not required as setback requirements have been met and satisfied. They let Mr. Nappo know he will need to get approval from the Conservation Commission. The Board lets Mr. Nappo know the Conservation Commission meets on the second Tuesday of the month.



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They advise him to present for both the deck and the future bedroom addition at the same time as he can get an extension on the permit for the bedroom if needed.

### Old Business

Board to discuss proposed Driveway By-law. Ms. Krawet believes their proposal is good. She thinks it's important that the wording be the same on the website so there is no confusion. Mr. Ronzio proposes, as a Board, to take the last good copy of the proposed By-law and get copies to the new Board Members and discuss at the next meeting. All were in favor.

### New Business

Board discusses possible nominees to serve on the Berkshire Regional Planning Board. Ms. Krawet nominates Robert Ronzio. Mr. Blake seconds the nomination. Call for any other nominations. There are none. Mr. Ronzio accepts the nomination and calls for a vote. All in favor. Robert Ronzio is elected to serve on the Berkshire Regional Planning Board as the Primary Representative. Ms. Krawet nominates Alvin Blake to serve as the Alternate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Ronzio seconds the nomination. Call for any other nominations. There are none. Mr. Blake accepts the nomination. Mr. Ronzio calls for a vote. All in favor. Alvin Blake is elected to serve as an Alternate on the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The Board recommends Gale LaBelle to serve as the Becket Planning Board Alternate.

### Board Discusses Sign up for Special Training

Planning Board Members are permitted to go to special training sessions and meetings providing there is enough money in the budget. The Board will make the decision as to who will be sent to training with Planning Board funds. Members may also pay for these training sessions themselves to attend if money is not available in the budget.

### Review Correspondence

The Board reviews mail received.

### Budget

The Board tables discussion of the budget until next meeting.

*Mr. Andrews dismisses himself from the Becket Planning Board Meeting at 9:00 PM*



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### Any other business to come before the Board:

Mr. Blake makes an inquiry about the possibility of forming a moratorium on marijuana, both medical and recreational. Mr. Ronzio explains that in order to do that, a public meeting would need to be held. There wasn't enough time to have a public hearing before the meeting. The Board has only received a draft concerning a moratorium. Mr. Ronzio informs the Board that the Select Board would administer restrictions on marijuana - medical and recreational. Mr. Blake inquires if a zone for marijuana could be established. Mr. Ronzio reminds Mr. Blake that as of now, everything in Becket goes through special permit applications to be presented to the appropriate Board for approval. This gives the abutting parties a chance to argue, or not, their disapproval or approval on the permit. Mr. Blake says he brings up the point because it would make it easier to attract companies, like medical marijuana, to not go through such a drawn out process. The Board discusses possible restrictions that may be put on marijuana growing and distribution/selling.

### Adjournment

Ms. Krawet makes a motion to adjourn. Mr. Blake seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes. Meeting is adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved on October 11, 2017 by:

  
Robert Ronzio

  
Ann Krawet

  
Alvin Blake

  
Charles Andrews Oct. 19, 2017