

MINUTES

BECKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 18, 2011

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.**

**Commissioners Present: Scott Morley, Chair; Richard Pryor, Vice Chair; Kathy Vsetecka, Agent and Commissioner; Bud Moylan, Commissioner**

**Commissioners Absent: Marty Winters, Purr McEwen**

**Public: Brian Bean, Mercedes Gallagher, Maddie Elovirta, David Corriveau, Craig Kleman**

**Scott Morley presiding**

1. **Approval of July 21, 2011 meeting.**

**Motion by Bud to accept the meeting minutes of July 21, 2011; second by Richard; unanimous approval.**

2. **Continued Notice of Intent Conservation Group, Inc. Barry Fogel, Esq. Center Pond Dam Map 210 Lots 28, 30, 34 DEP #102-0372 Maintenance, repair and improvement of Center Pond Dam**

Center Pond Applicant requested a continuance until the September 12, 2011 meeting.

**Motion by Kathy to continue to the September 15, 2011 meeting with the applicant's consent.** Mercedes stated that she had been on one site visit. Also stated that there is a need for the National Park Service to have another visit which has been set up. She was concerned about various issues such as the spillway not being large enough, cutting of vegetation on the bank, etc. Scott stated that all this was addressed during the first hearing. Another of her concerns was the flow of the stream; this was also addressed at the first hearing with Scott confirming that 4 pipes will be used to maintain flow of the stream during the work process.

3. **Request for Determination of Applicability Center Lake Estates Center Lake Beach Map 211 Lot 146 General maintenance of beach and road; adding stone to a 25 sq. ft. area next to the beach for a canoe rack.**

Brian Bean presented a plan for putting 1 ½" stone down in the area for the canoe rack where the area is muddy. This would help to control erosion from that area. It was also brought up that White Wolf is responsible for road maintenance. Scott questioned whether they would be driving across the beach to put stone down. Brian confirmed this stating that the beach was firm and he didn't see a problem with it. Bud, who had been to the site, noted that water comes around the beach. Scott questioned why the area was wet and Brian stated it was because the beach was a little higher and the water gets trapped; it is a semi-lawn area. Scott inquired about general maintenance. Brian stated that sand is put down on the beach and raked by hand maybe once every two years. Bud stated that there is not much of a problem with the sand because there is a ¾" stone drainage ditch around the beach so sand doesn't go

down into the water. The slope is gradual. Scott suggested 3-4 inches of stone be put down in the area of the canoe rack because he is concerned that the stone will sink into the mud. Brian stated that this could be done. Bud asked if the original rack was 50 feet from the water and whether this one would be the same distance. Brian stated that it wasn't and that this would be difficult. A discussion followed with the idea of setting it back 25' from the high water mark. Rich questioned erosion controls such as straw wattles being used. He was concerned that having the stone unloaded near the top of the beach and being spread around with a bob cat could cause sand to go into the water. While he is not against the project, he just feels that in the eventuality of some sort of spill, the pond should be protected and would like to see straw wattles. A silt fence was another alternative. Mercedes voiced concern of two neighbors re material going into the lake from road maintenance.

**Motion by Scott for a Negative Determination of Applicability with Becket Standard Conditions; the 25 sq. ft. area of new stone be moved 15' back from the high water mark; that either straw wattles or silt fence be used between the stone area and area the stone is being dropped off protecting the lake side of the work area 10' from the high water mark. The Commission is approving this project for beach maintenance—adding and raking of sand which needs to be kept 4' back from the high water mark; for general road maintenance of light grading of the road. Also, when doing beach maintenance (adding sand) a silt fence or straw wattles must be used.**

**Seconded by Rich. Unanimous approval**

4. **Request for Determination of Applicability Town of Becket Town Beach Mecum Way Map 413 Lot 15 Beach improvements to minimize erosion Maddie Elovirta representing**

Foresight Land Services was hired to design a plan to minimize beach erosion. The existing stone wall will be moved about 10' back from the beach. PVC pipe will be installed behind the stone wall for drainage to an area on the side of the beach. Trees and bushes will be cut down for this. A water bar will be installed in the boat launch access, the grassy area on the Greylock side of the beach will have the grass/weeds removed and mason sand put on it. The plan showed the stone discharge area, the sediment control area, etc. Instead of hay bales as on plan, straw wattles or bales will be used.

**Motion by Kathy for a Negative Determination of Applicability with Becket Standard Conditions as straw wattles or bales to be used in place of hay bales.**

**Second by Bud. Unanimous approval**

5. **Request for Determination of Applicability Town of Becket Tennis Courts Prentice Place Map 206 Lot 93 Resurfacing of tennis courts**

The tennis courts are being resurface and painted. There will be no digging or dredging. No vegetation is in the area. Surface will be cleaned with compressed air. The cracks will be getting one coat of fill. The total court area will receive two coats of color. White textured paint will be applied for the tennis lines. A silt fence is on the plan on the river side inside the fenced area.

**Motion by Bud for a Negative Determination of Applicability with Becket Standard Conditions**  
**Second by Rich. Unanimous approval**

**6. Request for Determination of Applicability David Corriveau 29 Lancelot Lane Map 217 Lot 77  
Construction of retaining wall in buffer zone to Lancelot Lake**

There is an existing stone wall on the property. On the left side of the house is a washout. Below that is a retaining wall that is falling apart. He wants to fill the area in front of the stone wall using stone and by building a 6' x 6' x 12' retaining wall. He wants to re-grade the area with bigger stones, top soil and grass as well as native plants and bushes to stop the erosion. He will be putting in drainage pipes and will use a silt fence erosion control while doing all the work.

**Motion by Bud for a Negative Determination of Applicability with Becket Standard Conditions; that all work be done with hand tools; and that native plants be used.**  
**Second by Rich Unanimous approval**

**7. Request for Determination of Applicability Pamela Bachrach Indian Lakes Map 219 Hand pulling and cuttings of weed in cove by Boulder Beach**

Rich and Kathy inspected the area. They was a road wash out a number of years ago with silt going into the lake. In the meantime, phragmites have been growing near the shoreline. Applicant wants to cut the phragmites and to pull the water shield in the lake area near shore. Pam will be the volunteer to supervise. The work is being done only in this cove.

**Motion by Rich for a Negative Determination of Applicability**  
**Second by Bud Unanimous approval**

**8. Request for Certificate of Compliance Graham and Holly Gurry 225 East Shore Rd. Map 211 Lot 19 DEP #102-0339**

Bud has visited the site several times recently. He stated that there were cement blocks placed in front of the home and a new ramp with concrete slabs installed. Applicant followed the conditions as requested. However, there were "sand" bags in the water which were trying to hold some of the stone in the water. A letter was submitted regarding the project and read by Kathy. Berkshire Engineering did the paperwork for this project, inspected it, and submitted comments on the crushed stone in the bags. There was a question on what exactly is in the "sand" bags and what the tensile strength of the bags is—can they break and then deposit the crushed stone in the lake? These were not part of the plan approved by the Commission.

**Motion by Scott to continue pending further information**  
**Second by Bud Unanimous approval**

**9. Center Pond Weed Control Project, etc. report**

Mercedes Gallagher representing. The Lake District was formed last summer which means there no longer exists an Association. The Lake District has decided not to conduct a survey this

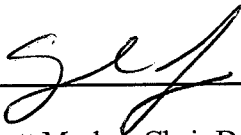
year which was advised by Aquatic Control Technology. This was due to the hand pulling which has kept the weeds under control. They have been talking to Ken Wagner who will be hired next spring to do the survey. Purple loose strife and phragmites have been controlled through hand pulling though once had been treated with chemicals. Two years ago the loose strife was found on the other side of Rte 8 as well as phragmites. Each plant of loose strife can produce a million seeds making it a very pervasive plant. The question is that they are now outside an abutting area but still within the jurisdictional area. Mercedes is seeking the permission of the Commission to do hand pulling within the Center Pond watershed area under the DA already on file which states that there is permission for Center Pond and bordering land. Discussion of the Conner's replication area by their driveway (across Rte 8 from the pond) where they planted an approved wetland seed mix and there is now phragmites growing there. It was decided that a permit would be needed for work there as it doesn't fall under the DA on file. However, it would be all right to do work on the Goldklang and the London property they do abut Center Pond (see DA already issued). She would like to do cutting of phragmites on another property but needs permission.

**10. Administrative business/other**

- a. **Martie is resigning as recorder but there are a couple of people interested in the job. The decision will be held off until September meeting.**
- b. **A report from Palmer Brook was received. Kathy hasn't read it yet as it just came in— it is on file in the office for anyone wanting to review it.**
- c. **A new computer will be purchased once credit card is available.**
- d. **Noted an abundance of weeds on Greenwater Pond. Kathy will contact Dave Mac Williams about it. Also, appears to be a new dock or repair at the motel on Greenwater Pond.**

**Scott motioned to adjourn 8:30 pm**

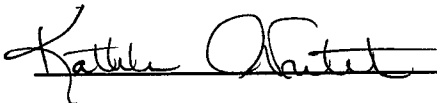
**Bud seconded Unanimous approval**



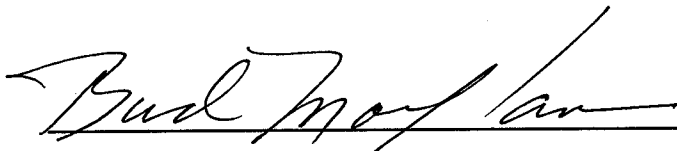
Scott Morley, Chair Date



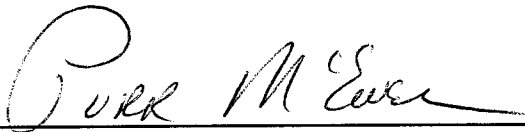
Richard Pryor, Vice Chair Date



Kathy Vsetecka, Commissioner/Agent Date



Bud Moylan, Commissioner Date



9/15/11

Purr McEwen, Commissioner Date

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Marty Winters, Commissioner Date

Respectfully Submitted,

Martie Martin