

YOUR BECKET CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Each of us residing in this extraordinary community in the Berkshires chose to come here for a reason. Perhaps you chose Becket for its abundant and beautiful forests and hiking trails. Maybe it was because of the public access to so many wonderful lakes and pond resources for swimming, boating, or fishing. Possibly it was a peaceful place to settle down and avoid the congestion of city life, its noise, traffic, the many stop signs and lights, and frenzied pace. Whatever your reason for choosing Becket, you will have to admit that it is a hidden gem.

Becket has over 20 lakes and ponds, numerous wetlands, and streams that constitute much of the town's geography. The sustainable use and quality of our precious water resources is a concern to all of us. Many factors today are challenging the viability of our lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands, and groundwaters.

That's where the Becket Conservation Commission comes in. The Commission is under the authority of the MA Department of Environmental Protection Agency and is responsible for protecting the land, water, and biological resources of our community as outlined in the Wetlands Protection Act. This is accomplished by property owners submitting applications to the Commission for proposed work in or around lakes, ponds, streams, and wetland areas. The Commission reviews applications at our public meetings to determine if the work proposed will have a negative impact on wetland areas. If it is determined the proposed work will have a negative impact, we add "Orders of Conditions" that will allow an application to be approved. Sometimes, however, we cannot approve an application because the work proposed is prohibited under the Wetland's Protection Act.

It is the duty of the commissioners to review properly completed applications, deliberate, and render a decision based on the Wetlands Protection Act without bias, preconception, or conflicts of interest. All deliberations of the commission must only transpire during our scheduled open meeting.

The Commission has adopted a business model in which we treat applicants as our customers. We are committed to extraordinary service and professionalism. All who appear before us are treated with respect. We are diligent about following up on phone calls and emails. Before each scheduled meeting, Commissioners are provided an electronic file link containing applications and other agenda items to privately review before the meeting. Our meetings begin at 6:00 PM and must end by 9:00 PM. The Commissioners are well prepared to deliberate on applications and the meetings usually end by 8:00 PM.

The following serve on the Becket Conservation Commission:

- Dave Johnson (Chair) – Risk Management and Commercial Insurance
- Henry Hagenah (Vice Chair) – Attorney for Insurer's claims, Real Estate Buyer's Broker
- John Verity – Sr. General Construction Superintendent for Commercial Building & Healthcare Facilities
- Doug Bessone – B.A. in Psychology/Minor in Physical Education, M.A. School Administration
- Jim Shaefer – B.S. & M.A. Environmental Engineering, studied wastewater system design
- Chris Clapper – B.S. Aviation Management and Jet Pilot for Corporate Aviation
- Henry Scarpo – Owner of the Berkshire Lakeside Lodge, Musician
- Nic Pietroniro (Agent/Employee) – B.S. Environmental Science, Wetland Management, Restoration Ecology

If you have any questions or comments, please call Nic Pietroniro at 413-623-8934, Ext. 129.

You may also contact Dave Johnson (Chair) at 978-424-5752.