

Town of Becket Conservation Commission 28 January, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance: David Johnson (Chair), Meredyth Babcock, Cindy Delpapa, Alison Dixon, and Henry Scarpo. Agent Mary Stucklen joined by phone for a portion of the meeting.

Commissioner not in Attendance: -

Members of the public: Steve Blanchard, Shannon Boomsma, Maddy Elovirta, Steve Morrison, Evan Triantafilidis.

Chair Johnson called the 28 January ,2020 Becket Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:31PM, introduced the Commissioners, read meeting guidelines and asked if anyone was recording the meeting.

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

New business

None presented.

Continuing Business

A ***Notice of Intent*** submitted by David Levenfeld for the construction of a driveway in the buffer zone of Center Pond at 229 South Cove Drive (Map 211, Lot 49; DEP File #102-0449). Commission visited the site for the recent RDA. S Boomsma of White Engineering, representing the applicant, summarized the work done under the RDA and this new request to construct a driveway. The proposed new configuration will be a switchback using interlocking block for the necessary retaining walls. Drainage through the retaining walls will be directed into a rain garden. The height of the retaining wall will vary from 2 courses of block to six to eight courses. New stairs toward the lake will also be installed. Commissioner asked if there was a PE stamp on the plans or any soils analysis/shear strength undertaken because of the volume of earth being retained by the proposed block walls. S Boomsma reported information from the manufacturer of the retaining blocks reported the weight of the blocks were adequate but she will get a PE to stamp the plan and add all other requested updates. The surface of the drive will be airport mix. Commission discussed the long term wear of the drive surface, the fate of the fines and an appropriate BMP to capture the materials washing downslope. A small swale at the break in slope, properly maintained, would be helpful is the applicant was willing to this addition. Commission requested an overview of the excavation and construction process including where materials would be stockpiled. S Boomsma explained an excavator would be used for earth-moving (Wilkerson Excavating), no stockpiling will be required, and the work will take 3-4 weeks to be completed by Memorial Day. Given the nature of earth work and the possibility of inadvertent damage to the erosion control line, Commission requested backup erosion control measures on the lakeside of the road. Mark Stinson of MA DEP had a few comments on this NOI: a question about fees and the flood zone. S Boomsma postulated M Stinson combined the RDA and the NOI work but the NOI is dealing with only a driveway. The flood zone mapping matches the edge of Center Pond so the flood line is hard to discern from the pond edge on a plan. Chair Johnson opened the public hearing for NOI #102-0449 at 7:01 PM. The public hearing for NOI #102-0449 was closed b y Chair Johnson at 7:02 PM. Motion made to issue an Order of Conditions for DEP file #102-0449 for the construction of a driveway at 229 South Cove Drive with the following conditions: Becket standard conditions; a small swale will be added at the lowest point of the driveway to capture fine grained materials washing off the driveway and the swale will be maintained as needed but no less than once a year; an additional line of erosion control will be added on the east side (lakeside) of the road; any alteration to the proposed driveway material (airport mix) will require an amendment to the OOC; all of these changes will be added to a revised plan set and submitted to the Commission and the plan must be stamped by a MA Professional Engineer; and all replacement plantings must be native species appropriate for the site conditions. (Dixon/Babcock). MSV. S Boomsma requested the paperwork be sent to her offices.

A Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Daniel & Sadie Mecca of 275 Maid Marion Lane (Map 217, Lot 254) for the installation of a replacement septic system. The project is still finalizing survey and design. Motion made to continue the RDA for the installation of a replacement septic system at 275 Maid Marion Lane Lane (Map 217, Lot 254) to the 25 February 2020 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Dixon/Babcock). MSV.

A Request for a Certificate of Compliance submitted by Sergey Kaletin of 0 Yokom Pond Road (Map 409, Lot 3; DEP File #102-0431) for the construction of a driveway. Applicant requested a continuance to allow for some additional engineering. Motion made to continue the RCC for DEP File #102-0431 to the 25 February, 2020 Becket Conservation Commission, (Dixon/Babcock). MSV.

Additional Items

Annual Report: The year needs to be changed to 2019, (now 2010). Agent Stucklen is working on compiling the numbers related to Commission actions. It was noted there was no special recognition for all the work A Dixon accomplished as chair. C Delpapa will draft an augmentation for the report and share with the Commission in the next few days.

Update on the important issues and take away from the MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) meeting last Saturday that impact and/or are matters of importance to the Commission: M Babcock reported the day-long workshop went well with a good compliment of attendees and lively discussions. There was support for reviewing bylaws in light of climate change and obvious recognition of how important natural resources are to the quality of life in the town. The town has a great tradition of protecting and celebrating its natural resources. The new Western MA MVP coordinator attended the workshop as well as a MA DOT and BRPC representatives. M Babcock will contact C Bouchard, Becket DPW, about upcoming grant opportunities including Wild & Scenic community grant to serve as a match for other grants.

Update Re: Enforcement Order for A. and V. Bleier, 819 Bonny Rigg Road (Map 416, Lot 23), for unpermitted work impacting bordering vegetated wetland wetland, buffer zone, and intermittent stream; and Enforcement Order issued to L. and N. Dean, 765 Bonny Rigg Road (map 416, Lot 22), for unpermitted work impacting bordering vegetated wetland wetland, buffer zone, and intermittent stream. Item not discussed.

Update Re: Enforcement Order issued to K. Avelle of 318 County Road (Map 409, Lot 20) for unpermitted work in the Riverfront Area. Item not discussed.

Update Re: Potential Violation 61 Donald Drive (Map 203, Lot 8) resulting from the removal of trees along the bank of Buckley Dunton Reservoir. Item not discussed.

Update Re: Potential Violations reported to the Agent: Agent Stucklen provided a copy of the RDA for work at 221 Carter Road. There is a significant amount of work but all appears to be covered by the RDA. Because the work is being done under a RDA, no DEP File number is required to be posted which makes it difficult for a passer-by to ascertain if the work was reviewed and approved by the Commission. Given the level of work and the proximity to Pill Pond, A Dixon thought it wise to visit the site to confirm the erosion controls are in place and all work is following the plan presented in the RDA. The RDA did require the applicant to update the Commission on the piers being used. There was a report of a possible violation on Leonhardt Road. Agent Stucklen was unable to follow-up because the warm weather made negotiating Leonhardt Road in a two wheel drive vehicle too difficult. She will try again when the road is passable/refrozen.

Update Re: Site Visit to 37 Shore Road (Map 204, Lot 18.5). Agent Stucklen visited the site and found two trees and a house removed because of fire threat. The property is in the outer fifty feet of the Riverfront Area and outside of the one hundred foot buffer of the pond. The owner is working with the Planning

Board about rebuilding and they may require building in a different location which may place it closer to resource areas. Without more information about the building location the Commission is unable to provide useful guidance.

Update Re: Concern for Vernal Pools on Jacobs Ladder Road (Map 404, Lot 2). Agent Stucklen provided an image of the area showing two adjacent parcels under the same ownership. One of the parcels, the one without the certified vernal pool, has been proposed for development as a growing operation. The proposed work will not be near the vernal pool or within other jurisdictional areas. Commission discussed if the water withdrawals might impact groundwater levels. It was unknown if the town has a requirement for hydraulic/hydrological studies for larger withdrawals but it is unlikely. Commissioners requested Agent Stucklen to share these concerns about the potential to impact wetlands or other resource areas, through changes in groundwater levels, and the possible use of chemicals in the cultivation or processing of plants.

Discussion Re: Potential bylaws and public education opportunities. The questions recently raised about the use of drones and realtors required to inform perspective buyers about the WPA and the presence of jurisdictional areas are all presentations at the upcoming MACC conference. The education discussion and planning will be this coming Saturday. Commissioners agenda form ensuring no deliberative business would be undertaken during the education and outreach meeting.

Discussion Re: MACC Conference. Commissioners going to the conference should send their workshop preferences to Agent Stucklen and she will attend to all the registration details.

Minutes: Motion made to accept the 17 December, 2019 Becket Conservation Commission minutes, (Babcock/Dixon). MSV.

General Mail: A Partridge Road forest cutting plan was received from the DCR forester. Commissioner Scarpo agreed to take on the task of reviewing forest cutting plans which was formerly done by K Karlberg. The DCR forester would likely be willing to meet and explain the process. Chair Johnson submitted the Conservation Commission FY21 budget.

Conservation Commission Vacancies: A Dixon's term ends in June and she is disinclined to ask to remain on the Commission. This will leave three vacancies.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting, (Dixon/Scarpo). MSV Chair Johnson adjourned the 28 January, 2019 Becket Conservation Commission meeting at 8:30 PM.

Action Items:

- M Babcock to follow-up with C Bouchard about potential grant applications.
- Visit 221 Carter Road to confirm the erosion controls are in place and all work is following the plan outlined in the RDA
- *Agent Stucklen will share Commission's concerns about large withdrawals and the potential need to undertake hydrologic studies to determine impacts to wetland resources.*
- *Agent Stucklen ask the DCR forest if he will provide a training on cutting plans*