

Town of Becket
Conservation Commission Minutes
17 April, 2018

Commissioners in attendance: Alison Dixon (Chair), Barbara Brand, Cindy Delpapa, Mary Stucklen and Becket Conservation Agent Laura Robbins

Commissioners not in attendance: Karen Karlberg.

Members of the public: None present.

Chair Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM and read meeting guidelines.

No public input or comment for items not on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

No new projects were submitted for review by the Commission.

Chair Dixon updated the Commission about the possibility of sharing an agent with another town. Chair Dixon reported she received input on how to initiate the process including Meredyth Babcock recommending the Commission put together an article about newly hired agent Robbins and our new Commission member. Lauren Gaherty (Berkshire Regional Planning) suggested this possibility be raised at the next regional conservation gathering.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Review of a **Revised Request for Determination of Applicability** submitted by Virginia and Patrick Conner: The project proposes to remove four trees in the buffer zone of Center Pond at 223 Old Pond Road (Map 210, Lot 45). The applicant provided a revised RDA explaining the trees will be cut by hand, starting from the top of the tree, and leaving the stumps. The logs will be removed from the driveway adjacent to the road. Commissioners discussed suggesting to the applicant plant trees between the house and the water but the applicant, in the RDA, states they intend only to plant grass and ivy. Motion made to issue a negative determination #3 to allow the hand cutting of four trees at 223 Old Pond Road (Map 210, Lot 45) as detailed in the revised RDA, (Stucklen/Brand). MSV.

Updates related to ongoing site inspections for the Borrego Solar project, as submitted by Tighe & Bond on behalf of Borrego Solar Systems, located in the Tanglewood Circle sub-division (Map 406, Lots 14-20, 37-47). Commissioners reviewed the plans on file, the OOC, and the most recent inspection reports from Tighe & Bond noting the March report was sent a month after the inspection was completed. Agent Robbins and Commissioner Stucklen visited the site recently with representatives from Borrego Solar and Tighe & Bond. Agent Robbins explained the silt socks were not at the base of the slope before the roadway but placed on the opposite side of the roadway. Agent Robbins sent a follow-up email after the site inspection asking for the installation of the erosion socks around the culvert inlets/outfalls, updated site plans and requested Borrego Solar notify the Commission of any changes to erosion control measures from those on the approved plans. Agent Robbins will be inspecting the site on 18 April and will try to determine if the heavy rains on 16 April resulted in uncontained runoff. Agent Robbins will notify Tighe & Bond to ask the company to provide their reports in a timely manner and to see inquire if a site inspection was done after the 16 April storm event.

Additional Items

Issuance or Ratification of Emergency Certifications or Enforcement Orders not anticipated at time of posting. None were issued.

Chair Dixon polled the Commissioners about the possibility of changing the Conservation Commission meeting to the second or fourth Tuesday of the month. The Commissioners present were all amenable to changing to the fourth Thursday. Agent Robbins will check with the town to see if the room would be available and Chair Dixon will ask K Karlberg if the change was acceptable. If the meeting date were changed for the June meeting, an additional meeting might be needed to avoid having meetings 5 weeks apart. Commissioners discussed a second Tuesday in May (15th) followed by 5th or 12th June and 26 June.

Motion made to approve the revised minutes of the February 20, 2018 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Brand/Stucklen). MSV with one abstention.

Approval of the minutes of the March 20, 2018 meeting was tabled to the next meeting. Agent Robbins will review the draft minutes and send changes to C Delpapa.

Pertinent correspondence received and upcoming items.

Eversource Energy submitted a 2018 Yearly Operating Plan to the Commission.

The Selectboard sent the Commission a notice of an upcoming Public Hearing regarding a marijuana cultivation facility on Wednesday May 9 at 7 PM. Agent Robbins was asked to check the site location.

Review budget and funds to date.

Chair Dixon discussed the merit of the Commission becoming a member of pertinent local organizations and asked Commissioners to recommend organizations.

Chair Dixon explained the Commission's funding mechanisms- accessing funds both the general account and the Wetlands account. The general account pays is used for the agent's salary and the Wetlands account for non-routine expenses, for additional agent hours, and to make special purchases. Chair Dixon queried Commissioners about placing all filing fees in the general account and not split the fees between the two accounts. Motion made to deposit all RDA filing fees received into the general account (Stucklen/Brand). MSV.

Administrative procedures- Chair Dixon is developing a list of projects and recommendations. She will share this list when it is complete. She also requested Commissioners review the Becket Standard Conditions and send recommendations and edits to Agent Robbins before next meeting.

MA Executive Office of Energy and Environment has funding available to help small communities prepare open space plans. Consensus was to explore this opportunity. Agent Robbins will scan (or find an electronic version) the existing open space plan 2005-2006 plan and disseminate to the Commission. A request should be sent to the Select Board asking to support an application for this funding.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 (Submissions due Friday, April 27, 2018).

Motion made to adjourn the meeting (Stucklen/Brand). MSV. Chair Dixon adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Action Items:

- Agent Robbins will notify Tighe & Bond to ask for the Borrego Solar site inspection reports in a timely manner.
- Ask Tighe & Bond if the Borego Solar site was visited after the 16 April storm event.
- Agent Robbins will check on the availability meeting space at town hall on fourth Tuesdays.
- Agent Robbins will review the draft March minutes and send changes to C Delpapa.
- Agent Robbins check the site location of the propped Marijuana Cultivation area.
- Commissioners recommend local organizations the Commission should consider joining.
- Commissioners review the Becket Standard Conditions and send recommendations and edits to Agent Robbins before next meeting.
- Request to the Selectboard requesting support to applying for funding to update the Open Space Plan