

Town of Becket
Conservation Commission Minutes
20 March, 2018

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

Commissioners not in attendance: Barbara Brand and Karen Karlberg.

Members of the public: Rita Furlong, Dominic Meringlo (SOLitude Lake Management), and Josh Perry (SOLitude Lake Management)

Chair Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM, read meeting guidelines, introduced the Commissioners, Agent and asked if anyone was recording the meeting. No one from the public announced they were recording the meeting.

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

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). Commissioners visited the site. Neither the applicant nor a representative was present at the meeting to answer questions about the RDA. Commissioners discussed the application, potential impacts the tree removal may pose on the resource area, and viewed some images taken at the site visit. The method proposed for the tree cutting and removal was not stated in the RDA and there is potential for impacts to the resource area if methods other than hand cutting will be used. Motion made to continue the Request for Determination of Applicability for tree cutting at 223 Old Pond Road (Map 210, Lot 45) until the April 2018 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Stucklen/Delpapa). MSV.

Revised Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by the Town of Becket Parks and Recreation Committee: The project proposes modification of Center Pond Beach Parking Area including the removal of four trees, demolition of existing shed/gravel pad, reconfiguration of portable toilet location, and installation of new concrete pad, ramp and shed in the buffer zone of Center Pond, 0 Mecum Way (Map 413 Lot 15). Agent Robbins has helped with the reworking of the RDA application. Commissioners discussed the proposed tree removal and potential impacts to the BVW associated of the intermittent stream. The shed location was also discussed relative to the distance from the car park area and the BVW associated with the intermittent stream. Commissioners expressed a preference to maximize the distance between the shed, the BVW and the intermittent stream. Motion made to issue a negative Determination #3 for work within the buffer zone of Center Pond and the BVW of an intermittent stream including the installation of a new shed, a new, poured concrete pad with a gravel ramp at the front of the shed; removal of the existing structure and two concrete pads; the removal of only the two dead hemlock trees nearest to Center Pond as indicated on the amended RDA. Additional requirements: the front of the new shed building will be ten feet or less from the parking lot; the two trees will be removed following the method detailed in the RDA; the applicant may elect to leave two foot stumps or cut the tree trunks flush to the ground but the remaining trunks shall not be ground on-site; erosion control shall be installed prior to work beginning using hemlock limbs or straw wattles; reseeding of exposed areas will be done within a week with a native seed mix, hemlock limbs used for erosion control may remain on-site scattered in wooded areas but any other erosion control materials used on-site must be removed from the site after exposed areas have an established vegetated cover, (Stucklen/Delpapa). MSV.

Updates related to 2018 Pond and Lake Management Plans, as submitted by SOLitude Lake Management on behalf of the Sherwood Forest Lakes District and Sherwood Greens Road District. Commissioners were provided reports on Sherwood Forest, (dated 3 November, 2017 and submitted 23 January 2018) and Sherwood Greens (dated 27 November, 2017 and submitted 30 January, 2018). D Meringlo of SOLitude Lake Management explained the treatments completed on Sherwood Forest ponds during the summer of 2017. D Meringlo noted the appearance of brittle naiad was late in the season which prevented treatment in 2017. Surveys identified Eurasian watermilfoil in Lancelot Lake in 2017 and SOLitude is planning to treat the plant in 2018 in addition to treating Robinhood Lake for brittle naiad. *Phragmites* sp. was not treated last year as the Sherwood Forest Lake District did not approve funds for the treatment. SOLitude will be providing their MA DEP approved herbicide applicators license and the pre-treatment lake survey information before beginning any 2018 treatments. SOLitude was asked to share the water quality monitoring data mentioned in the 2017 reports, provide definitions of the vegetation density descriptors used in the report, (e.g. what is the density of plant per unit area for *sparse*) and provide a definition of what constitutes a 'nuisance level' relative to native species. D Meringlo

stated there is a "listing-based relative density but there is no hard and fast rule about what is considered nuisance for native plants but 20-40% is cited in literature". Commission asked D Meringlo to provide the literature citations.

D Meringlo presented an overview of activity in Sherwood Green. Sherwood Green's waterbodies will be treated for naiad species. Long Bow Lake and Little Long Bow Lake will be treated with fluridone. It is unlikely Greenshield Pond will be treated until 2019. *Phragmites* sp. will be treated using the same protocols used in 2017. Commissioners requested the lakes be labeled in the images in the report and reiterated the request to provide definitions of the density terms. D Meringlo anticipated submittal of the Water Quality Study Plan in time for the April Conservation Commission meeting.

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-development (Map 406, Lots 14-20, 37-47). One of the reports was included in the Commissioner's packets. Agent Robbins is working to replenish the depleted account for the stormwater inspections as the current account balance is insufficient to cover the latest invoice from Tighe & Bond. Agent Robbins has request another installment of the funding from Borrego Solar to cover the site inspections. Chair Dixon requested Agent Robbins follow-up with Borrego Solar regarding the one deficiency noted on the 2/27/2018 stormwater construction site inspection form from Tighe & Bond.

Updates related to a potential solar array project, to be relocated outside the buffer zone area of wetlands located near Jacobs Ladder and George Carter Roads (Map 204, Lots 15 and 34). Agent Robbins explained the applicant has not provided a site plan related to a change in the location of the proposed facility to be outside of wetland jurisdictional areas. There are questions about the appropriate WPA filing needed. Agent Robbins has asked for the wetland delineation data from the applicant. Commissioners agreed a site visit will likely be needed once a revised site plan and delineation data is filed with the Conservation Commission.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Issuance or Ratification of Emergency Certifications or Enforcement Orders not anticipated at time of posting. No emergencies to report for this past month. MA Dept. of Transportation supplied a report on the repairs made to a section of the Mass Turnpike under an Emergency Certification. After some discussion the Commissioners remained unclear the exact location of the repairs and consensus was a site visit is warranted. The Commissioners would like information about long term maintenance and where the debris excavated during emergency repairs the was placed by MA DOT.

It was noted Becket Woods District has 'beaver control at the beach area' in their upcoming meeting agenda. The District should be reminded any work in resource areas needs to come before the Conservation Commission

Approval of minutes from the February 20, 2018 meeting. Meeting minutes deferred to the April Conservation Commission meeting because of a lack of a quorum of Commissioners in attendance at the February meeting.

Miscellaneous

Commissioners discussed modifying the public notice process to post notices in the *Berkshire Eagle* not the *Country Journal*. Agent Robbins researched the cost of running legal notices in the *Berkshire Eagle* and reported the paper charges by the inch. The Commission raised filing fees last year and concern was expressed about raising fees so soon after the last increase. The current filing fee could be reallocated to have a larger percentage going toward posting the legal notices and working to post the most concise posting legally possible. Motion made to change the paper used to post the Conservation Commission legal notices from the *Country Journal* to the *Berkshire Eagle*, (Stucklen/Delpapa). MSV.

The Commission discussed the site visit schedule and group file sharing. The Commission was willing to try Friday evening site visits when there are one or two visits until the number of site visits increases in the spring and summer.

Motion made to recommend the reappointment of Cindy Delpapa as the Conservation representative to the Community Preservation Committee, (Stucklen/Dixon). MSV. C Delpapa will draft a reappointment request to the Selectboard for Chair Dixon.

Pertinent correspondence received and upcoming items:

Commission held a brief discussion about the letter Agent Robbins drafted to send to DEP regarding the Lancelot Lake appeal. The letter summarizes the Commission's rationale for denying the proposed diversion pipe. C Delpapa provided suggested edits and augmentations. Agent Robbins will incorporate changes and redistribute. Note the Commission's letter will be shared with all parties by MA DEP.

The Commission received correspondence from the Town of Becket regarding an upcoming public meeting on large scale solar installations. A commission representative may wish to be present to advocate for providing a wildlife gap in perimeter fencing. The meeting is Tuesday, 3 April, 2018 and Alison and Cindy will coordinate who can attend.

Agent Robbins wished to point out to the Commission the Order of Conditions for Center Pond's aquatic management does not specify the application area is limited to 30 acres though the NOI, describing the project, clearly states the application of herbicide will not exceed 30 acres.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

Motion to adjourn (Stucklen/Delpapa). MSV. Chair Dixon adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Action Items:

- SOLitude Lake Management to provide water quality monitoring data collected during 2017, provide definitions of the vegetation density descriptors used in the report, and literature citation stating nuisance vegetation levels of native plants is 20-40%.
- Agent Robbins to follow-up on the 2/27/2018 stormwater construction site inspection which noted one deficiency.
- Becket Woods District reminded any work in resource areas, including beaver control, needs to come before the Commission.
- A request to the Select Board sent asking for the reappointment of C Delpapa to the CPC as the Conservation representative.
- Agent Robbins will incorporate changes and redistribute letter to MA DEP regarding Lancelot Lake appeal.
- Alison and Cindy will coordinate who can attend the hearing on large scale solar projects.