

Town of Becket Conservation Commission 15 January, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance: Alison Dixon (Chair), Barbara Brand, Cindy Delpapa and Agents Stacy Parsons & Mary Stucklen

Commissioner not in Attendance: Karen Karlberg

Members of the public: No members of the public in attendance

Chair Dixon called the 15 January, 2019 Becket Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:34 PM and read the meeting guidelines.

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

New Business:

Ratification of **Emergency Permit** issued to Sherwood Forest Road District at 94 Sir Galahad Road (Map 217, Lot 63D) for the removal of an unsafe structure. The Sherwood Forest Road District was ordered to remove the unsafe structure this past summer but the SFR District did not act in a timely manner. A reevaluation of the structure by the Building Inspector resulted in an order to remove the structure in five days because of its worsening condition. The building was removed and the site inspected by Agent Stucklen. Motion made to ratify the Emergency Permit issued to Sherwood Forest Road District for the removal of an unsafe structure at 94 Sir Galahad Road, (Map 217, Lot 63D), (Brand/Delpapa). MSV.

Continuing Business:

NOI application submitted by the Town of Becket for the construction of a UV disinfection treatment system including an 8' by 10' precast concrete building to house public water treatment equipment and modification of existing water pipes at the Rte 20 Chester Road Becket Spring (Map 417, lot 1900; DEP FILE # 102-0441). Funding for the UV disinfection system is on the warrant for the special town meeting next week. Motion made to continue the hearing for the construction of a UV disinfection treatment system by the Town of Becket at the Rte 20 spring (DEP FILE # 102-0441) to the 26 February, 2019 Becket Conservation Committee meeting, (Brand/Delpapa). MSV.

Additional Items

Inquiries: Agent Parsons updated the Commission on a flood zone question from Robert Gordon. R Gordon was encouraged to contact FEMA about this issue to gain clarification about the FEMA designated flood zones that may be associated with his property.

Mark Rosenman contacted the Commission relative to a RDA he filed for the addition of a deck and walkway. He wishes to add a bathroom to the project. Agent Stucklen reviewed the file and plans and determined the location of the bathroom would be on the side of the house away from the resource and not in a jurisdictional area.

EverSource Vegetation Management Plan for 2019: Chair Dixon reviewed the plan and found it to be a standard vegetation management plan. Sensitive areas were listed and spraying would not occur within ten feet of a flowing body of water. A public meeting on the region-wide plan is scheduled for February in Northampton. Chair Dixon recommended Commissioners review the plan and images of the transmission lines on-line as she noted erosion issues in Hinsdale. Commission discussed having information at town meeting and/or a message on the town's list serve about the Vegetation Management Plan in addition to

the link to the plan already on the Commission's website.

General Update: 1379 Chester Road (Map 417, Lot 38) house demolition is anticipated: The structure is in poor shape and posing a public safety threat. The town will be taking the building down soon. Commissioners noted the structure is on the opposite side of Rte 20 from Walker Brook. Parcel slopes down hill and not toward the river.

Discussion about the upcoming MACC Conference on March 2nd from 8a-4:30 pm: Commissioners will send to Agent Stucklen their workshop selections so that she can submit registrations for the Commission. Commission will send in registration fees for all Commissioners who wish to attend the conference, (Dixon & Brand).

Discussion about the town's/Commission's MSMCP membership: The organization is similar to MACC as it offers many conservation related training and hosts workshops. The dues are \$20 per year. Motion made to join the MSMCP and authorize the dues payment of \$20, (Delpapa/Brand). MSV.

Review and approval of the December meeting minutes. Motion to approve the 18 December, 2018 meeting minutes, (Brand/Dixon). MSV.

Review and discussion of the annual report. Commissioners thanked Agent Stucklen for preparing a great annual report detailing the Commission's activities and accomplishments. The Mercedes Gallagher tribute is separate from the Annual Report submission.

Forest Cutting Plans Review- next steps. Agent Stucklen reported Commissioner Karlberg is still interested in being the point person. Commissioners discussed meeting with the DCR forester to gain more insight into process and how to review plans in a timely manner.

Equipment purchases. Commissioner Delpapa will do more research on a laser range finder with at least a 250 foot range..

Conservation Commission vacancies. Chair Dixon will talk with S Morley. Commission discussed trying to find an engineer for the Commission. Perhaps advertise in the BEAT list serve again.

Becket Parks and Recreation requested a meeting to discuss upcoming projects.

New Co-agent Mary Stucklen: Commission welcomed Mary on board. Agent Parsons will have a limited role as her schedule is full. Agent Stucklen is anticipating office hours on Tuesday's from 2 to 4 PM and Friday's 9 AM to 1 PM. Agent Stucklen would like to take a Wetlands course at UMass Amherst which includes class and field components with a class fee of \$500. Motion made to authorize the payment of \$500 to cover the class fees to allow Agent Stucklen to attend the upcoming UMass Amherst Wetlands class, (Delpapa/Brand). MSV.

General Mail. The State is offering funding to assist towns with preparing Municipal Vulnerability Plans. Once plans are approved, communities are eligible to apply for significant implementation funding which will allow communities to prepare for climate related natural disasters such as flooding or inadequate road-stream crossings. Motion made to send a letter to the Select Board recommending the town apply for Municipal Vulnerability Planning funding, (Delpapa/Brand). MSV.

Motion made to adjourn the 15 January, 201 Becket Conservation Commission, (Brand/Delpapa). MSV. Chair Dixon adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM.

Action Items:

- 1.** Notice about the availability of the EverSource Vegetation Plan sent out on the town's list serve.
- 2.** Join and pay dues for a MSMCP membership
- 3.** Arrange a meeting with Parks and Recreation to discuss upcoming projects
- 4.** Send a letter to the BOS recommending the town apply for MVP planning funding.