

Town of Becket Conservation Commission
23 April, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Commissioners in Attendance: Alison Dixon (Chair), Meredyth Babcock, Barbara Brand, Cindy Delpapa, Henry Scarpo and Agent Mary Stucklen.

Commissioner not in Attendance: Karen Karlberg

Members of the public: Marc Bellard, Lori Benoit, Karen Brodie, Jim Brown, Vermice Cowell, Ken Einhorn, Margaret Esposito, Scott Freeman, Elizabeth Goodman, William Johnson, Dean Lagrotteria, Kristen Miller, Gabrielle Murphy, Mike Parsons, Dave Richards, Robert Ronzio, Anthony Trolamo.

Chair Dixon called the 23 April, 2019 Becket Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:33 PM, read the meeting guidelines and asked if anyone was recording the meeting. R Ronzio reported he was recording the meeting.

Public input and comment for items not on the Agenda. E Goodman, on behalf of the Stan Taylor Trust, spoke regarding a beaver lodge removed in 2013 but has since been rebuilt. Per Agent Stucklen's recommendation, the issue will be brought before the Board of Health.

New Business:

Ratification of Emergency Permit issued to Paul London at 96 Manning Road (Map 210, Lot 28) for removal of one tree that has snapped and endangered a home. Agent Stucklen visited the site. A tree fell on another tree during recent windstorm causing it to snap. The tree was within a wetland and at the edge of the property. The tree has been removed. Motion made to ratify the Emergency Permit for the removal of a tree within a wetland resource area at 96 Manning Road (map 210, Lot 28) to prevent potential damage to a house, (Brand/Scarpo). MSV.

A Request for a Determination of Applicability submitted by David Richards of 116 Will Scarlet Drive (Map 216, Lot 411) for the removal of an existing permanent dock and the installation of a seasonal aluminum dock. D Richards explained the existing dock was in place when he purchased the property three years ago. The dock is in poor shape and he would like to replace the dock with a larger seasonal structure. Commissioner asked where the dock would be stored in the off season. D Richards reported it would be stored on-site near a shed. When asked why the dock is nearly doubling in size, D Richards explained the additional length and width was needed to accommodate a sixteen foot pontoon boat. Motion made to issue a negative determination #2 for the removal of an existing dock and the installation of a seasonal 'L' shaped twenty feet long by 10 feet wide aluminum dock in Robin Hood Lake at 116 Will Scarlet Drive, (Brand/Babcock). MSV.

A Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Margaret Esposito of 128 YMCA Rd (Map 212, Lot 7) for a proposed addition to an existing residence, a proposed garage, and expansion of an existing porch. Commission completed a site visit. M Parsons of Kelly Granger and Parsons provided a summary and plans of the proposed work on behalf of the applicant. M Parsons reported the wetland boundary was revisited after the Commission's site visit and it has been reconfigured closer to the house. Chair Dixon noted the plans do not include the stream on the property. M Parsons explained only wetland resource areas and BVW were included on the plan because the stream was intermittent. Question about any expansion of the driveway as none is noted on the plan and this area is almost entirely within BVW. M Parsons reported it is likely gravel will be added to extended the driveway to the wall but no excavation will be required- only the scraping away of any unsuitable material. In response to a question about the on-site wastewater system, M Parson reported the system was installed in 2012 and will not be changed. The Commission requested work activity be limited to the east of the house to be as far away from resource areas as practicable. The Commission also requested the owner consider a conservation seed mix to re-vegetate any disturbed areas. Agent Stucklen asked if the basement sump pump upgrade will be a

separate application? The consultant did not know. The owner, M Esposito, responded the sump pump would be a separate filing if this was the Commission's preference. Motion made to issue a negative determination #3 with the following special conditions: the erosion control measures must be inspected by the Conservation Agent before work begins, repaired as needed during the work phase, and the work area inspected by the Agent before the erosion controls are removed at the completion of work; a conservation seed mixture will be used to re-vegetate disturbed areas; a small extension of the gravel drive to the existing wall may be included in the work provided there is no excavation; and there will be no vehicle access west of the residence, (Brand/Scarpo). MSV.

During the site visit it was noted trees had been cut in the wetland. The trees came down during a storm while the owner was away and the caretaker dealt with the problem. Agent Stucklen asked the time of year this was done. M Esposito reported it was either late summer or early autumn. The owner stated she was committed to a 1:1 replacement of the lost trees and would appreciate guidance on the trees species to plant. The owner also reported the existing sump pump discharge exits the basement and creates a 'geyser'. The property caretaker found a broken pipe and installed a temporary pipe to prevent water flowing back into the basement. M Esposito said the sump pump fix and the tree replacement would likely be bundled in the same WPA filing.

A Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Two-State YMCA of 9 Camp Becket Road (Map 211, Lot 1) for the installation of two sewer force mains to connect cabins to wastewater treatment. S Freeman (Environmental Engineer), L Benoit (Stantec) and J Brown (Two-State YMCA- Operations Director) were present to explain the project and answer questions. The wastewater treatment plant was built in 2004 and most of the Camp's structures were tied into the plant but a few remote properties remained on Title 5 systems. During a recent groundwater discharge permit renewal, the MA DEP ordered the Camp to tie-in the legacy Title 5 systems. One very remote system will remain but all others will be tied into the wastewater collection system. The new collection system components will be 1¼ inch pipe. This work is under a MA DEP consent order and the Camp will be reporting to MA DEP. The work is proposed for the autumn of 2020. The wetlands were delineated in autumn of 2018. All work will be in the buffer zone with no work in wetland resource areas. The work will consist of trenching, approximately five feet deep and eighteen to twenty-four inches wide, and the new piping installed and the trench back-filled. While some saplings may have to be cut, every effort has been made to avoid larger trees. In the area of the existing eighteen inch culvert connecting two wetlands, the new infrastructure will dip beneath the existing pipe and be set in sand. Commission expressed some concerned the existing culvert might change elevation with the new pipes installed beneath potentially creating a perched condition between the two wetland areas. S Freeman reported this is highly unlikely. The existing on-site systems will be demolished in place. The tank at Ruddview will require some erosion control measures. A New England erosion control mixture will be used to revegetate disturbed areas. A question about the possibility of tree roots compromising the new collection system over time. L Benoit explained regular inspection and maintenance will be needed to prevent this from occurring. Motion made to issue a negative determination #3 for the installation of two sewer force mains to connect cabins to an existing wastewater treatment plant at 9 Camp Becket Road (Map 211, Lot 1) by Two-State YMCA, with the special condition that erosion control measures be installed around Ruddview cabin and inspected by the Conservation Agent prior to septic system decommissioning, (Brand/Babcock). MSV.

A Request for Extension of the Order of Conditions (DEP File #102-0413) for Jacobs Hollow Road Association (Map 204, Lot 254. 01) issued on 04/19/2016 for routine annual maintenance of Jacobs Hollow Road. B Johnson, President of the Jacob Hallow Road Association, was present to answer questions. The OOC was extended for one month at the last Conservation Commission meeting. B Johnson explained the work done under this OOC is mostly the regrading of the road annually to keep it crowned so runoff goes to the road shoulder. Check dams were added a few years ago in the swales at the side of the road. Some gravel was added to exposed filter fabric and mending check dams. There is a series of seven culverts beneath the road every couple of feet sending runoff toward the stream and the OOC allows for the hand clearing of material from the culverts. Agent Stucklen reported a homeowner/Association member has called her about runoff concerns but is not present at this meeting to more fully explain her concerns.

Motion made to extend the Order of Conditions, DEP File # 102-0413, for the routine annual Maintenance of Jacobs Hollow Road (Map 204, Lot 254.021) by the Jacobs Hollow Road Association for three years to 23 April 2022, (Brand/Scarpo). MSV with one abstention.

Continuing Business:

A Request for Extension of the Order of Conditions (DEP File #102-0420) for Sherwood Forest Lakes District issued on 06/02/2017 for the continued maintenance of aquatic vegetation in Sherwood Forest due to expire on June 2nd, 2019. M Bello, a biologist with SoliTude Lake Management and E Goodman, Council for Sherwood Forest Lakes District, were present to answer questions. Agent Stucklen's file search found many older annual reports but none for 2018. M Bellow was able to provide a paper copy of the 2018 report. M Bellow explained he has been involved in the Sherwood Forest work for about 20 years. The goal of the management work is to address nuisance vegetation in these very shallow, man-made waterbodies. Treatment has been done with MA DEP approved chemicals and harvesting to maintain open water. Dissolved oxygen has been monitored post-treatment and has been found to meet standards. The waterbodies have low nutrient levels. Commissioners were concerned about the level of outreach and education to landowners especially with regard to pro-active measures. R Ronzio reported management plans are discussed at the annual meeting and 30 years ago the septic systems were tested and repaired as needed. V Cowell of the Prudential Committee explained the lakes are well taken care of and are important for recreation. The web site posts water quality information and best practices. There has been few concerns with *E.coli*. Agent Stucklen recommended the Sherwood Forest Lake District have a point person dedicated to timely submittal of reports and be available to answer questions. E Goodman offered to provide a digital file of the latest report and be available to address questions from the Commission. Sherwood Forest Lakes District granted permission to extend this request for an OOC extension to the 28 May, 2019 meeting of the Becket Conservation Commission.

A Request for a Certificate of Compliance for 0 Tanglewood Circle, (Map 406, Lot 14-20, 37-47; :DEP File #102-0421) by Borrego Solar Systems. Order of Conditions was issued on August 22nd, 2017 for the installation of a solar facility. There will be a site visit on Tuesday, May 21st at 10AM. Request for a Certificate of Compliance was tabled until after the site visit.

Additional Items:

Correspondence: *Letter Requesting Consideration by Ken Einhorn of Sherwood Greens Road District regarding this request for extension to the Order of Conditions for vegetation management in Sherwood Greens, DEP File #102-0393.* The Commission received a letter from K Einhorn asking for reconsideration of the decision made at the last meeting to not grant an OOC extension. K Einhorn (Sherwood Green Road District) and M Bellow (SoliTude Lake management) spoke to the Commission regarding this letter. M Bellow has been working in Sherwood Green for about a decade. There are four created ponds and light residential development around the waterbodies. Management efforts have focused on *Phragmites* *spcs* along the shoreline and occasional herbicide treatment of nuisance aquatic plants. The District contracts with local firms for hand pulling and these efforts are not reflected in the SoliTude Lake Management annual reports. The District records the hours spent pulling. Chair Dixon summarized the discussion at the last Commission meeting where several Sherwood Green residents voiced a range of concerns about the management program particularly communication and notification issues relative to herbicide treatments. It was also noted the residents with these concerns were newer landowners not involved in the development of the existing management plan. Commissioners felt the lack of any special conditions beyond Becket Standard Conditions, many of which do not apply to this work, is a serious concern. Agent Stucklen confirmed new conditions could be added to an existing OOC as part of the extension process though an applicant can offer an amendment. M Bellow asked if the Commission would consider revisiting this request at the May meeting? G Murphy, Sherwood Green resident, expressed frustration with communication and her inability to get information about the management plan. K Einhorn explained the SoliTude report is included in the Prudential Committee's annual report. G Murphy reported the concerns about inadequate communication was raised to the Prudential Committee along with a request to have SoliTude present to residents but this has not happened. K Einhorn explained announcements go out

through an email list. K Brody, a new resident, explained the email list is not widely publicized and is hard to get added to the list- she has been trying to get on the list for months to no avail. K Miller also reported the lack of notice about herbicide applications, especially make up days, and is particularly concerned about the potential for well contamination. M Bellow noted the herbicides used are all approved by the EPA and can even be used in drinking water reservoirs. Wells are not tested post application. The only restriction is for agricultural use. While not required, SoliTude does recommend a 24 hour restriction on recreation on the treated waterway- as a precaution. He also said SoliTude can work on the communication problems saying SoliTude was unaware there were issues. Commissioners generally felt this is a good opportunity for the residents of Sherwood Green to convene and discuss the long term management of their ponds and reach consensus on how they wish to move forward. Chair Dixon informally polled the Commissioners to ascertain if there was a chance the vote on an extension might change next month after a review of additional materials and with a new Commissioner coming on board. Consensus was to let the decision to not grant an extension stand. The MA DEP Watershed Based Planning tool should be forwarded to interested Sherwood Green residents and a link be placed on Commission's website.

Review and approval of March 2019 Conservation Commission Meeting minutes. Since B Brand left the last meeting early because she was unwell and K Karlberg not present, there is a lack of a quorum to vote on the minutes. Will be considered in May.

New Conservation Commission Members & Vacancies. There are three new Commissioners, M Babcock, H Scarpo and D Johnson. B Brand reported she will not ask for a reappointment when her term ends in June. K Karlberg and C Delpapa terms are also up in June. A Dixon is looking to step down as chair.

Conservation Commission Purchases & Trainings. Laser distance finder not yet purchased. M Babcock asked if skimming equipment could be purchased to help with the Center Pond Weed Project. Chair Dixon felt it best to have a more up-to-date budget before making any additional purchasing decisions. Motion made to allocate up to \$300 to purchase equipment for the Center Pond Weed Project, (Babcock/Brand). MSV. M Babcock added that there will be a Westfield River Wild & Scenic sponsored weed pulling training 26 May from 10am to 2 pm and a talk by MA DCR's Lakes & Ponds lead, Jim Straub on 18 June. She asked the Commission to help disseminate this information. Also requested Agent Stucklen ask about the lake districts dissemination routes and if they would send out a notice about the two trainings.

General Mail.

Commission received a notice about a hearing regarding a seasonal food truck. MA DOT sent a courtesy email about an application for a 401 certification for the Rte 8 crossing over Shaker Mill Brook.

Motion to Adjourn, (Brand/Babcock). MSV. Chair Dixon adjourned the meeting at 9:40PM.

Action Items:

1. Letter to M Esposito summarizing the discussion about tree replacement and sump pump fix at 128 YMCA road. (MS)
2. Forward the Sherwood Forest materials to Commissioners when file(s) are received from E Goodman. (MS)
3. Commissioners send questions about the Sherwood Forest vegetation management to Agent Stucklen ASAP and she will compile and send to E Goodman.
4. Borrego Solar site visit on 21 May at 10 AM.
5. Append letter received from Sherwood Green Road District to minutes. (MS)
6. Add link to DEP Watershed Planning tool to web site.
7. Inquire how lake districts disseminate information to residents and have them notify people about the Wild & Scenic trainings. (MS)