

## **Town of Becket Conservation Commission 7 July, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting held to comply with COVID-19 social distancing requirements. Conservation Commissioners attended in person with interested parties participating virtually.**

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Chair David Johnson, Meredyth Babcock, Cindy Delpapa, Henry Hagenah and Agent Mary Stucklen.

**Commissioner(s) not in Attendance:** Henry Scarpo

**Members of the public:** David Edgecomb, Ken Einhorn, Theresa Hayden, Joe Henry, William Hurlbut, Dean Lagrotteria, Michael Lavery, Bruce Lipton, Mark Schultz, Isaac Voltoline, Ken Wagner, (every attempt was made to identify all people participating virtually on the conference line)

**Introduction of the Commissioners:** Chair Johnson called the special 7 July, 2020 Becket Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:34 PM, read the meeting guidelines and introduced the Commissioners and Conservation Agent.

**Public Input:** None offered.

### **New Business**

None presented.

### **Continuing Business**

***A Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Sherwood Green Road District for limited manual aquatic vegetation management in access areas.*** K Wagner and B Lipton presented the proposed project to the Commission. Sherwood Greens has four created ponds, Long Bow is the largest with the most houses along the shoreline and a beach. An extensive survey was done of the vegetation in the spring. It was found that all aquatic plants are native species growing densely throughout the ponds. The intent of this project is to provide residents with open water where access is needed. Less than 5 percent of the pond area will be impacted under this RDA though the Sherwood Greens Road District is working on a more extensive management plan, which may include herbicide, to be contained in an NOI slated for the autumn. The work proposed for this summer includes hand pulling and benthic barriers. K Wagner explained benthic barriers are thin sheets of material, his preferred barrier has a light colored and a dark colored side, weighted to remain on a lake bottom. Commissioner asked where the proposed work would be done as no locations appear in the material submitted. K Wagner explained no Sherwood Green landowner has come forward to ask for plant control measures yet. This prompted a Commissioner to ask if this work was wanted by Sherwood Green residents. K Wagner affirmed this work was welcome as an alternative to herbicide by some residents. A Commissioner asked if the benthic barriers are removed at the end of the season. K Wagner reported barriers are often removed for the winter but in some circumstances the barriers are kept in the water for up to 18 months – about the maximum time before they need to be removed for cleaning or plants will begin to colonize the material on top of the barrier. Barriers could be placed for just a brief time- just long enough to kill the plants beneath. Commission asked who will be installing the benthic barriers and pulling the plants? How will they be trained? Who will be monitoring to confirm the work is done correctly? K Wagner anticipates he will be overseeing the project this year. He is not sure who will be installing the benthic barriers- it could be done by SoliTude or by residents. Residents will be asked if they want to hand pull, it is assumed most will opt for the barriers, and he can train those interested in harvesting. Commissioner asked if someone will be tracking the amount of area cleared? K Wagner reported this duty has not been officially assigned but will likely be his responsibility this season. Commissioner asked if there will be an analysis of the effectiveness of the two methods? K Wagner will use the data collected this spring to analyze the success of the methods used this

summer. Questions were asked if there has been success in other lakes with benthic barriers and cutting- less so with hand pulling. K Wagner notes big leaf pondweed can be effectively cut but not bladderwort which floats. Commissioner mentioned there has been some success with stunting Phragmites using a sugar-water solution in salt marshes though not tried in fresh water. K Wagner was not familiar with this work. Motion made to issue a negative determination #2 for limited aquatic vegetation management in access areas, to the Sherwood Greens Road District as amended, clarified and outlined in the letter received 7 July, 2020, (Babcock/Hagenah). The Sherwood Green Road District will provide the name of the Project Manager each year and this person will be responsible for ensuring the work done is up to standards, will map treatment areas and track the square feet allotted to a landowner for treatment, and ensure residents are fully trained on how to install barriers or hand pull plants; the Project manager will maintain a list of activities including type, area treated, and distance between treatment areas & property lines. MSV. D Edgecomb asked about the lack of a management plan for this work including the length of time it will take and the budget. Agent Stucklen explained the activity was limited to hand pulling and benthic barriers and the permit is for three years. The Project Manager will need to keep track of the work and the results. D Edgecomb hoped the Commission would assess the effectiveness of this work at meeting its goal. He has not heard that access is a problem and wishes to know how it will be determined if the work is meeting its goal. Agent Stucklen explained the work is limited to 10% removal under this RDA- this is what the Commission can monitor to make sure the level of work does not rise to the level that would require a NOI. An NOI would need to present the long term management plan.

***A Request for Determination of Applicability*** submitted by the Westfield Wild & Scenic for manual invasive species management and removal along Center Pond Brook. Commissioner Babcock recused herself from Item #4. Commissioner Delpapa reported she serves as the appointed Becket representative to the Wild & Scenic Committee. M Babcock reported an updated list of species and other requested materials was submitted to MA DEP. I Voltoline explained the work proposed will be to remove non native species from along Center Pond Brook. The invasives have been identified and will be removed from upstream to downstream to deter the spread of these plants including multiflora rose. The goal is to improve native biodiversity. Motion made to issue a negative determination #2 and #3 for manual invasive species management and removal along Center Pond Brook to the Westfield River Wild & Scenic Committee and town of Becket, (Hagenah/Delpapa). MSV with Babcock abstaining.

***A Notice of Intent*** submitted by John Todice for the construction of a residence at 0 Sherwood Drive (Map 215, Lot 197; MA DEP File #102-\_\_\_\_). MA DEP has not issued a file number yet. Motion made to continue the hearing for the Notice of Intent submitted by John Todice for the construction of a residence at 0 Sherwood Drive (Map 215, Lot 197; MA DEP File #102-\_\_\_\_) to the 28 July, 2020 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Babcock/Hagenah). MSV.

***A Request for a Certificate of Compliance*** for 3805 Jacobs Ladder Road (Map 201, Lot 17; DEP File #102-0425) by Maurice Henry Jr. Trust. Order of Conditions was issued August 4, 2017 for the reconstruction of a home. During the site inspection there were several deviations from the plan provided in the NOI and approved by the Commission found at the site. It was noted a 22" maple was cut down. The owner explained the tree was dead but no request to authorize its removal was sought. However three new maple saplings have been planted in the area between the house and the road. The dock is now on the other side of the house and a significantly larger affair than the one shown on the plan. The viewed dock has a ramp to the dock on the lake shore, the dock and a large raft at the end of the dock. The propane tanks, shown near the front door on the plan, were installed west of the house adjacent to the car parking deck. The tanks may be in the flood zone. The landowner will be providing a recently obtained determination of the 100 year flood elevation to the Commission. Commissioners discuss the deviations from the plan. The dock should be removed immediately as it is not permitted and is too close to the property line. The propane tanks should be secured to the girders supporting the car deck. The homeowner needs to submit a letter detailing all of the deviations from the approved plan. Motion made to continue the Request for a Certificate of Compliance for 3805 Jacobs Ladder Road (Map 201, Lot 17; DEP File #102-0425) by Maurice Henry Jr. Trust to the 28 July, 2020 Becket Conservation Commission meeting,

(Babcock/Hagenah). MSV. Agent Stucklen will send a letter to S Boomsma summarizing the issues with the request.

**A Request for Certificate of Compliance** submitted by Sergey Kaletin of 0 Yokum Pond Road (Map 409, Lot 3, DEP File #102-0431) for the construction of a driveway. Agent Stucklen reported there is no updates. Motion made to continue the request for a Certificate of Compliance for 0 Yokum Pond Road (Map 409, Lot 3, DEP#102-0431) to the 28 July, 2020 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Babcock/Hagenah).

**A Notice of Intent application** submitted by the Town of Becket for work on existing culverts on Werden Road within the Town Right of Way. (DEP File # 102-0450). The town has obtained all of the abutter notifications. Motion made to issue an Order of Conditions for work on existing culverts on Werden Road within the Town Right of Way (DEP File # 102-0450) with Becket standard conditions; contractor will submit a dewatering and water control plan to the Commission for approval prior to the start of work; there is no bordering land subject to flooding in this area; construction mats will be used to protect the BVW and removed immediately upon completion of work; all disturbed areas will be reseeded with a native New England seed mix, (Babcock/Hagenah). Becket Standard Conditions will be augmented with the requirement that all contractors must acknowledge they have read the OOC for the project before work may begin. Public comment closed by Chair Johnson at 8:26 PM. MSV

#### **Additional Items**

*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. S* There are no materials or reports due at this time.

*Update Re: **Enforcement Order** issued to K. Avalle of 318 County Road (Map 409, Lot 20) for unpermitted work in the Riverfront Area.* There are no materials or reports due at this time.

*Discussion: Letter to lake communities regarding wildlife fencing.* Agent Stucklen has been discussing this issue with several of the lake associations and the goal of the letter is understand. When the letter is ready it can be disseminated to the lake associations and other avenue of outreach as there is funding available. Commissioners discussed the outreach and education next steps.

*Conservation Commission vacancies.* With Alison Dixon's term expired, the vice chair position is open. Commissioner Hagenah may know of someone interested in serving on the Commission.

#### **General Mail:**

Agent Stucklen provided the ethic materials packets to all Commissioners.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting, (Babcock/Hagenah). MSV. Chair Johnson adjourned the 7 July, 2020 Becket Conservation Commission meeting at 8:43 Pm

#### **Action Items:**

- Agent Stucklen will send a letter to S Boomsma summarizing the issues with 3805 Jacobs Ladder Road relative to the COC request.
- Work to finalize the wildlife fencing letter.