

**Town of Becket Conservation Commission
26 January, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting held to comply with COVID-19 requirements.
Conservation Commissioners and interested parties participating virtually.**

Commissioners in Attendance virtually: Chair David Johnson, Meredyth Babcock, Doug Bessone, Cindy Delpapa, Henry Hagenah (delayed entry due to technical complications) Also Conservation Agent Stacy Parsons

Commissioner(s) not in Attendance: Henry Scarpo

Members of the public participating virtually: Kathy Diamand, Laura Fredricks, Rich Fredricks, Laurie Frieman, James Schaefer, Barbara Wacholder (every attempt was made to capture and correctly record the names of all people participating virtually)

Introduction of the Commissioners: Chair Johnson called the 26 January, 2021 Becket Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:43 PM, read the meeting guidelines and asked the Commissioners to introduce themselves.

Public Input and Comment: None offered.

Continuing Business

A Notice of Intent application submitted by John Todice for the construction of a residence at 0 Sherwood Drive (Map 215, Lot 197; DEP File #102-0459). Agent Parsons asked the Health Agent about the project. The Health Agent had no additional information or recent communication from applicant. Agent Parsons will contact the applicant about project status. Motion made to continue the hearing on the NOI for the construction of a residence at 0 Sherwood Drive (Map 215, Lot 197; DEP File #102-0459) to the 23 February, 2021 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Bessone/Babcock). MSV.

New Business

A Request for Determination of Applicability for 42 Lancelot Lane (Map 217, Lot 79) for removal of trees within the 100' buffer zone to Lancelot Lake. Applicant spoke with Agent Stucklen about a small stand of trees ~25 to 30 feet from the lake. Trees are either dead or rotting because of compromised root systems. Trees will be removed and taken off-site for disposal. Commissioner asked if there has been a site visit? Agent Parson explained no request for a visit was made and she did not visit the site. Commissioner expressed an interest in knowing the name of the arborist involved in any tree cutting applications. Commissioner was interested in knowing the source of the erosion noted as the cause of trees dying. Concern was expressed about the loss of trees could exacerbate erosion into the lake. Agent Parson indicated the land does slope to the lake. Commissioner recommended a site visit before a decision is made as a picture does not adequately show conditions. Motion made to continue the Request for Determination for tree cutting and removal within the 100' buffer zone of Indian Lake at 42 Lancelot Lane (Map 217, Lot 70) to the 23 February, 2021 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Babcock/Bessone). MSV.

Additional Items

Review and discussion of drawdown information submitted by the Indian Lake Association. B Wacholder expressed some consternation about having to speak to the BCC this evening and not having prepared a statement. Chair Johnson explained an invitation was extended as a courtesy because the ILA item was on the agenda and there was no expectation for a statement. Lake management must adhere to the conditions in the OOC and the submitted report indicates the 2019 drawdown went past 30 November. B Wacholder stated Agent Stucklen confirmed verbally that this was discussed at a BCC meeting which J Schaefer was in attendance and asked for permission. Commissioner recalls things differently – the BCC told J Schaefer the OOC was what must be followed. There was no formal request for an extension. J Schaefer stated he remembers things differently. Commissioner was surprised M Stintson of MA DEP did not call out the need for an authorization letter from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for a drawdown of greater than three feet but one

is required. B Wacholder requested an email stating what is needed and why. J Schaefer asked if a DFW letter is needed each year. Commissioner Babcock agreed to ask DFW these questions. Agent Parsons will send the letter.

Update: Education & the conservation commission. Chair Johnson sent a link to the MACC course schedule for the coming year. Commissioners should feel free to take as many classes as they wish and the BCC will cover the cost.

Wild & Scenic Grant. Chair Johnson was interested in what projects or activities the funding might cover. Commissioner Delpapa explained the announcement provided a good explanation and she would be happy to answer any additional questions.

Update: Submission of proposed budget for FY 2022. Chair Johnson submitted the budget early to allow the town administrator to review and adjust if needed. The budget is now confirmed.

Update: Grant award from Berkshire Taconic Foundation re: agent position. Chair Johnson reported the contract has been signed between the town and BRPC. Agent Parson reported the grant award check was in the BCC mail box and was given to the town treasurer.

General Mail: Agent Parson listed the two items received to make the Commission aware of their receipt.

General Updates. Chair Johnson announced the Lakes and Ponds council is 'off and running'. He also explained he has begun to compile a list of Berkshire county commission chairs and agents. He would like to encourage a periodic open forum for commissioners to discuss issues. Becket Commissioners could take turns participating to make sure there was never a quorum. Commissioner Bessone has reviewed the BCC web site and has recommendations for improvements.

Review and approval of November 17, (sic) 2020 Conservation Commission Meeting minutes. Motion made to approve the 15 December, 2020 Becket Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, Babcock/Bessone). MSV.

Chair Johnson reported the town administrator received a call from Crystal Pond Association upset about the BCC not voting on their NOI last year (motion did not receive a second). Chair Johnson spoke with Crystal Pond Association president to discuss the issue. He has since discovered, from M Stintson, there is an alternative appeal process available in such a situation and the BCC should have explained this to the applicant. Chair Johnson recommends BCC waive the filing fee when they resubmit. Chair Johnson apologized to the CPA President for not informing him about the appeal process and advised them 'to do their homework' before resubmitting their NOI.

Commissioner inquired if the agent has any information about two properties with potential violations. Agent Parson stated she contacted the Building Inspector to ascertain if the activities on these properties are long standing or new.

The Fredricks asked about the 509 Quarry Road property on the agenda. Agent Parsons stated as of this past weekend there has been no application received. Commissioner Babcock attended the Planning Board meeting about this project as the available materials showed a structure adjacent to a resource area. At the meeting she learned the applicant randomly placed and sized a 'block' representing a structure on the plans. The representation did not reflect what and where a structure might ultimately be located. If the activities on site are within a buffer or resource area, the landowner will need to file with the BCC.

Motion made to adjourn the 26 January, 2021 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Babcock/Johnson), MSV. Chair Johnson adjourned the 26 January, 2021 Becket Conservation Commission meeting at 7:54 PM.

Action Items:

- Agent Parson to contact M. Todice about project status.
- Agent Parsons to send letter to B Wacholder/ILA about the need for DFW authorization for a >3' drawdown.
- M Babcock to contact DFW how frequently they need to authorize >3 ` drawdowns.

Previous items:

- K Wagner to supply definitions and descriptions for table 4 in Sherwood Green NOI