

Town of Becket Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: March 30, 2021

Meeting was held in compliance with the MA COVID-19 requirements. All applicants and their contractors and or consultants participated virtually. The conservation commission met at the Becket Town Hall or virtually.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chair David Johnson, Henry Hagenah Vice Chair, Henry Scarpo, George Roberts, and Conservation Agent Mary Stucklen

Visual Attended - Doug Bessone, Not in Attendance – Meredith Babcock

Others in attendance: Bill Allen, Paul Giardina, Dominic Meringolo, Barbara Wacholder, Mike Thomas, Robert Wollenberg, Tracey Jervais, Joe Onorato, Kathy Dickinson, Colin Gosselin, Marc Volk, Daltrey, Mark McKinney, Sue Ellen Naslund, Gozal

The commission held an unofficial meeting from 6:00 – 6:30 that was posted and open to the public for listening. The following items were discussed:

- Commissioners introduced themselves to George Roberts a new commissioner.
- Welcome Mary Stucklen back from maternity leave and thanked Stacey Parsons for filling in her.
- Review MACC virtual convention and provided course curriculum and registration procedures.
- Acknowledge Cindy Delpapa's for her years of service, dedication, and commitment to the Conservation Commission.
- Indicated Jim Schafer had been approved by the BOS to join the ConCom starting in April.
- Indicated we have a person interested in being an associate commissioner, which we will discuss in more detail at the April meeting.
- Also, acknowledge Barbara Wacholder for sending us a couple of great potential commissioners, one joined who joined us i.e., Jim Schafer and Kathy Baugh is considering applying to be an associate commissioner.

Chair Johnson called the March 30th, 2021 meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. having a quorum. Chair asked each commissioner to introduce themselves. Chair read the public meeting guidelines and procedure process for deliberation on applications.

Chair discussed the importance of reviewing and deliberating on applications based on the WPA and treatments approved by the DEP.

Meeting opened to public comment for items not on the agenda. None presented - closed.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by William Allen, LLC, for installation of a new septic system at **227 King Richard Drive** (Map 226, Lot 289 & 291) within the 100' buffer zone and the 200' a resource area from Little Robin Lake.

Issues: failed septic system that was under the dwelling - BOH doesn't allow a septic replacement under a dwelling – the new system will have a septic tank between the house and the road – the effluent then goes into a pump chamber and is sent to the leaching area in adjacent lot – it is an Elgin system – reference website: Elgin.com – contractor demonstrated that this system and location are the only viable options for a replacement - erosion controls, grass replacement, and plantings will be done as indicated on the RDA. Tank under the dwelling will be crushed and filled in with dirt/gravel per the BOH requirement.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 2 and 3 for the installation of a new septic system at **227 King Richard Drive** (Map 226, Lot 289 & 291), by Scarpo, seconded by George – five yes zero no, motion carried unanimously.

5. Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by William Allen, LLC, for installation of a new septic system at **260 Alan A Dale Drive** (MAP 216, Lot 479) within the 200' of a resource area.

Issues: the new septic system will be to the left of the house and the effluent will flow into a leaching field farther off to the left side of the house - top of the leaching field will be about 1' above grade in a flat depressed area – contractor demonstrated that this system and location are the only viable options for a septic replacement - erosion controls i.e. silt fence straw models, grass replacement, and five bush plantings will be done as promised in the contractor's supplemental letter to the commission and other standard procedures will apply.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 2 for the installation of a new septic system at **260 Alan A Dale Drive** (MAP 216, Lot 479), by Scarpo, seconded by Hank – four yes, one abstention (George), and zero no, motion carried by majority.

6. Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Berkshire Engineering for installation of a new septic system at **189 East Shore Road** (MAP 211, Lot 104) within the 100' buffer area.

None issue: the new septic system is being installed outside of the 100' buffer zone. However, the contractor will be using erosion control to prevent soil material from entering the buffer zone. The house lot is fairly flat.

Issue: During the commission's site visit on Saturday March 27th, it was discovered that a French drain had been installed in late 2020. This work was performed in the buffer zone and was not permitted. Berkshire Engineering got straw bales and placed them along the water exit area of the French drain. This area is very flat and the amount water that will exiting the drain will be minimal. The homeowner thought the contractor installing the drain would have pulled the required permit. The drain installation did not create any noticeable impact on the resource area. This area is going to be reseeded. The approval for the French drain is included by amendment to this application.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 3 for the installation of a new septic system at **189 East Shore Road** (MAP 211, Lot 104), by Scarpo, seconded by Hank – five yes and zero no, motion carried unanimously.

7. Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by **Jacob's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road** (Map 407 Lot 16) for proposed addition to the Ted Shawn Stage within the 100' buffer area.

Issue: Jacob's Pillow requires an access road for heavy equipment to bring in material for the construction of an addition to the Ted Shawn Stage and the replacement of a large electrical generator. The road will be temporary altered by placing stabilization fabric over the current road surface and layering it with crushed stone. When the work is completed, the fabric and stone will be removed and the road restored to its preconstruction condition. Applicant provided significant measures to be implemented for the control of sediment and erosion controls as indicated on Exhibit C of their application.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 3 for the placement of a temporary construction road with an additional condition that the construction setup area will be free of debris and reseeded at the completion of the project **Jacob's Pillow, 358 George Carter Road** (Map 407 Lot 16), by George, seconded by Hank – three yes, two abstentions (Henry, Doug) and zero no, motion carried by majority

8. Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Robert Wollenberg for addition to a single-family residence at **177 Mystic Isle Way** (MAP 216, Lot 438) within the 100' buffer zone.

Issues: the applicant wanted to obtain a favorable RDA before applying for a building permit. The addition proposed would be six feet by eight feet. It would be supported by three post on one side and the opposite side will be tied into the primary building. Three holes will be drilled in the ground and the six-foot posts are inserted. Erosion controls will be placed about ten feet from the construction area between the water resource and the addition and the area bordering the property line. Applicant is required to notify the commission by email or in writing if the number of posts required by the building department changes. The water and septic systems will be tied into the existing systems underneath the dwelling. There will be no digging performed at this location.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 3 for addition to a single-family residence with the condition if the number of support post changes the commission will be notified at **177 Mystic Isle Way** (MAP 216, Lot 438) within the 100' buffer zone , by Scarpo, seconded by Hank – four yes, one abstention (Doug), and zero no, motion carried by majority.

9. Notice of Intent submitted by Solitude Lake Management for the aquatic management of **Crystal Pond** (DEP File #102-0461) - Note: Chair invited Crystal Pond Association to reapply for their application for aquatic management and the fee would be waived. The applicant had filed an application last year and there was no action taken by the commission due not receiving a second on a motion. The Chair (no knowing) did not advise them of their appeal rights when a commission doesn't take an action, which is different than receiving a decision from a formally voted declination by the commission.

Issue: There is an overabundance of vegetation in this pond. It's about 14 acres average depth of only five feet. Surveys of the pond have shown non-native species, spiny naiad, which is a submersed plant, and phragmites an emergent wetland species within the water and along the edges. The homeowners are concerned the vegetation growth is rapidly taking over the pond. Close to 80 percent of the pond is covered with vegetation and losing open water area. in the pond. The Association wants to initiate aquatic monitoring and management plan and maintain a viable pond and open waterway for its members.

Documentation presented: Solitude presented the approach and treatment plan to the Commission inclusive of the WPA Form 3 Appendix A: Ecological Restoration Project Checklists. Significant information was provided in the Attachment B of the application explaining treatment options and order of their use. The application did request the use of approved chemicals as a final and last option if the other treatments don't work. Solitude took considerable time to sufficiently explain the pond issues and treatment process to the Commission. Mike Thomas from Indian Lake expressed a concern about using chemical and indicated that would be their last option if and when absolutely necessary.

Motion: to approve the Notice of Intent by Solitude Lake Management for the aquatic management of **Crystal Pond** (DEP File #102-0461) by Scarpo, seconded by George, added items to the OOC dealing with weed removal and disposal destination, and providing annual reports to the commission, permit approved for five years, vote taken - five yes and zero no, motion carried unanimously

10. Information Meeting with Water and Wetland to review the aquatic management work plan developed for Indian Lake per OOC #23.

The commissioners felt they did a great job with their presentation format and structure, and it was very informative.

11. Chair moved the approval of the minutes to the April meeting in order to clarify the drawdown stop date at Indian Lake.

12. Conservation Commission Education – MACC conference courses

13. Recruitment – we have a full commitment of commissioners at seven, one person interested in becoming an associate commissioner

14. Chair requested motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. - motion by Henry, seconded George – five yes and zero no, motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Commission meeting minutes

Prepared by Dave Johnson, Chair

Date: 04/21/2021