

Town of Becket Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: June 22nd, 2021

The Becket Conservation Commission Meeting was held at the Becket Town Hall in compliance with the MA hybrid open meeting laws allowing applicants, contractors, and consultants to participate in person, virtually, or by audio.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chair David Johnson, Meredyth Babcock, Jim Schaefer, Doug Bessone,
George Roberts, Henry Hagenah

Guest in Attendance: William Osborne

Commissioners participating virtually: Conservation Agent Mary Stucklen

Not in Attendance – Henry Scarpo

Others in virtual or audio attendance: Keith Whalen, Donald Lyon, Cam Brown, Connor Fleury

The Chair Johnson called the June 22nd, 2021 meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. having a quorum and indicated the meeting is being recorded. Chair emphasized that meeting introduction was attached to the meeting agenda and wouldn't be read. For all future meetings, the introduction will be attached to the meeting agendas. The Chair asked each commissioner to state their full name for the record.

The meeting was opened for public comment for items not on the agenda. Not hearing any, it was closed.

The Commission scheduled their next meeting for Tuesday July 6th, 2021 to handle the increase in the number of applications.

Special Motion: a motion was made and seconded, and passed by unanimously consent to state that an "order of conditions" will apply automatically for a Request for Determination of Applicability and Notice of Intent Applications upon approval effective June 22nd, 2021

NEW BUSINESS:

4. **Request** for Determination of Applicability submitted by Keith Whalen for **3755 Jacobs Ladder Road (Map 201 Lot 60)** for the removal of a tree and tree stump in the buffer zone of Greenwater Pond.

Issue: both items are about 70 feet from the resource area and are located on the opposite side of the house from the resource area.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 3 for **3755 Jacobs Ladder Road (Map 201 Lot 60)** for the removal of a tree and tree stump in the buffer zone at Greenwater Pond, Becket standard OOC shall apply, the applicant will replant one tree or two bushes in the disturbed area, Motion by George, seconded by Jim, six - yes, zero - no, motion carried unanimously.

5. **Request** for Determination of Applicability submitted by Susan Hovani for **3 Bow North (MAP 213, Lot 51)** for the removal of three or four trees in the buffer zone of Longbow Lake.

Issue: there were three trees indicated on the application for removal, however there was a fourth tree that was significantly compromised, recommendation was made to applicant to discuss with the tree service if the fourth tree should be removed, area is heavily vegetated with trees and shrubs – at site visit all four trees appeared either dead or significantly compromised.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 3 for **3 Bow North (MAP 213, Lot 51)** for the removal of three or four trees in the buffer zone of Longbow Lake, Becket standard OOC shall apply, Motion by Hank, seconded by George, six - yes, zero - no, motion carried unanimously.

6. **Request** for Determination of Applicability submitted by Nancy Chassman and Donald Lyon for **138 Mystic Isle Way (MAP 216, Lot 444)** for the renovation of a home and installation of deck in the buffer zone of Big Robin Lake.

Issue: there are three separate projects, 1) work on the front of the house that was eight feet inside the buffer zone that would have no apparent impact on the water resource are, 2) the building of a cement slab under the deck area and adding room in area already compromised and extending the deck, applicant and contractor's supplemental letter elaborates on the work to be performed, and removal of debris, 3) the shed will be moved to an area about 20 feet from the resource area placed on cement blocks and it doesn't appear that it will effect on the resource area. Sufficient erosion controls were indicated on the construction plan.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 3 for **138 Mystic Isle Way (MAP 216, Lot 444)** for the renovation of a home, installation of deck, and relocation of a shed in the buffer zone of Big Robin Lake, Becket standard OOC shall apply, Motion by George, seconded by Hank six - yes, zero - no, motion carried unanimously. The applicant has volunteered to do some plantings around the shed.

7. **Request** for Determination of Applicability submitted by Peter Fortier for **67 North Lancelot Lane (MAP 217, Lot 82)** for the removal of one tree in the buffer zone of a water resource area.

Issue: the tree is deteriorating and presents a safety concern – arborist provided a letter confirming tree needs to be taken down.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 3 for **67 North Lancelot Lane (MAP 217, Lot 82)** for the removal of one tree in the buffer zone of a water resource area, Becket standard OOC shall apply, Motion by George, seconded by Jim, six - yes, zero - no, motion carried unanimously.

8. **Request** for Determination of Applicability submitted by Marianna Simopoulis for **173 King Richard Drive (MAP 216, Lot 282)** for the replacement of a septic in the buffer zone of Little Robin Lake.

Issue: the septic system was approved by the BOH and the location provided is the only option, the work is just inside the buffer zone thus work is jurisdictional, concerns 1) erosion control on plans not sufficient, 2) concern for run of water from a slightly raised leaching field, plans indicate a small retaining wall on lake side of the leaching field will help flatten the area, also the entire area is heavily vegetated with bushes and trees all the way down to the beach for a distance of about 90 feet.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 3 for **173 King Richard Drive (MAP 216, Lot 282)** for the replacement of a septic in the buffer zone of Little Robin Lake, Becket standard OOC shall apply and the contractor will extend the erosion control silk fencing farther out and up toward the property line so it ends at a point equal to the highest point of construction of the leaching field, Motion by George, seconded by Jim, six - yes, zero - no, motion carried unanimously.

9. Mary provided a brief review of the OCC for an RDA and NOI.

10. a. A motion was made to issue a cease-and-desist order due at 229 South Cove Road due to observed construction that exceeded the scope of work permitted by the Commission, Meredyth Babcock made the motion, seconded by

Hank, three – yes, zero – no, three abstentions by George, Doug, and Jim, motion did not carry due to not having a majority vote of the commissioners present. Agent to schedule a site visit.

b. Agent to write a letter to property owner at Leonhardt Road about a possible WPA violation

11. Review and accepting of the May 25th minutes – a motion was made and seconded, and passed by unanimously consent

12. General mail reviewed

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 - a motion was made and seconded, and passed by unanimously consent

Next Scheduled Meeting: July 6th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission meeting minutes

Prepared by Dave Johnson, Chair

Date: 06/28/2021