

Town of Becket Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: April 27th, 2021

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

Commissioners in Attendance: Chair David Johnson, Vice Chair Henry Hagenah, George Roberts, Jim Schaefer

Guest in Attendance: Robert Ronzio, Kathy Baugh, Cory Muddiman

Commissioners participating virtually - Doug Bessone, Meredith Babcock, and Conservation Agent Mary Stucklen

Not in Attendance – Henry Scarpo

Others in virtual attendance: David and Kristine Heenan, Elia Del Molino, Michael Lavery

Chair Johnson called the April 27th, 2021 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. having a quorum

The Chair opened the meeting to a 30-minute information session

The following items were discussed:

- Welcomed guest
- Jim Schaeffer was welcomed as our newest commissioner
- Chair asked each commissioner to share why they joined the commission and a little bit about themselves
- Review MACC virtual convention and continuing our education
- Update on shared agent program
- Discussed what an associate commissioner position would look like and the appointment process

At 6:30 p.m. Chair asked each commissioner state their name for the record. Chair read the public meeting guidelines and procedural 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. Rob Ronzio inquired if all the commissioners had taken the required MA State ethics certification. The Chair responded that all seven commissioners were current on their ethics certifications.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by David Johnson of **26 Tyringham Road (Map 404, Lot 12)** for various projects including a driveway, shed, and installation of a solar array within the Riverfront Area.

Issue: BCC Chair Johnson being the applicant recused himself and had Vice Chair Hagenah presided over the deliberation. The application was for various projects within a 200-foot distance of a stream.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 2 for work within in a resource area at **26 Tyringham Road (Map 404, Lot 12)** George, seconded by Jim, three yes, Meredith no, abstentions - Doug and Dave, motion carried by majority

6. Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Preston Webb for **49 Sioux Rd (Map 218 Lot 60)** for the extension of a deck in the buffer zone.

Issue: extension of a deck in the buffer zone. Commission questioned if the driveway that is within the buffer zone was permitted when the house was built in 2014. Commission needed to ascertain if a driveway permit had been issued at the time of residential construction before proceeding further.

Motion: Chair requested a motion for a continuance to the May 25th meeting for the application at **49 Sioux Rd (Map 218 Lot 60)** for the extension of a deck in the buffer zone, made by George, seconded by Hank – six yes, zero no, motion carried unanimously.

7. Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Kristen Heenan of **116 Will Scarlet Drive (Map 216, Lot 411)** for the extension of an existing deck and small mud room in the buffer zone.

Issue: extension of a deck and addition of a small mud room in the buffer zone. The mud room and additional decking will extent out over an already compromised ground area.

Motion: issue a negative determination number 3 for work within in a buffer zone at **116 Will Scarlet Drive (Map 216, Lot 411)** by Hank, seconded by George – six yes, zero no, motion carried unanimously.

8. Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Town of Becket for the for maintenance and building of a trail near **Route 20, between Gentian Hollow and Fred Snow Road** in the buffer zone.

Issue: placement of approximately 16 feet of bog bridging and manual pruning of branches that are extending out of the trail with hand tools. The pruned branches will be dispersed in the forest for cycling back into the forest floor.

Motion: issue a negative determination 3 for work in buffer zone at **Route 20, between Gentian Hollow and Fred Snow Road** by George, seconded by Hank – six yes zero no, motion carried unanimously.

9. Nomination of Doug Bessone to the **Community Preservation Committee**

Motion: Doug Bessone having been approved by the Board of Selectpersons, the Chair requested a motion to appoint Doug Bessone as the **Conservation Commission Representative to the Community Preservation Committee** for a term commencing April 27th, 2021 and ending on June 30th, 2023. Motion by George, seconded by Hank – six yes zero no, motion carried unanimously.

10. Request for allocation of funds provided by Eversource

Meredyth Babcock requested funding of \$1,500.00 to be used as a match for the outreach and education portion of Municipal Vulnerability Program Action grant projects. The outreach portion of the project is referred to as, "Better My Buffer". The project includes training and outreach as well as the installation of two Buffer gardens with dimensions of four by three feet. These will be installed at two locations, one public, and one private (community member within an underserved population) by a local professional team that will include training for community members. The funds requested will be used to plant, grow, purchase and distribute pollinator plants and or shrubs to all local workshop participants. The funding is conditional on the approval of the Action Grant. The \$1,500 is being made available through funding provided by Eversource's buffer revegetation assessment.

Motion for funding as indicated above by Hank, seconded by Jim, six yes, zero no, motion carried unanimously.

11. Conservation Commission Agent salary and Conservation Budget differed to May 25th, 2021 meeting

12. Review and approval of February 23rd 2021 and April 27th 2021 meetings differed to the May 25th 2021 meeting.

13. Agent received a notice of a potential buffer zone violation for the public access road to Yokum Pond. Agent to post a cease-and-desist order, inquire in to what happened, and advise the Commission at the May 25th meeting.
14. Chair requested motion to adjourn, made by Hank, seconded by George, six yes, zero no, motion carried unanimously.

Next Scheduled Meeting: May 25th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission meeting minutes

Prepared by Dave Johnson, Chair

Date: 05/12/2021