

Town of Becket Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: August 5th, 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,
Henry Scarpo

Guest in Attendance: none

Commissioners participating virtually: none

Not in Attendance – Henry Hagenah, George Peters, Conservation Agent Mary Stucklen

Others in virtual or audio attendance: Robert T. Akroyd, Alyssa Maggi

The Chair Johnson called the August 5th, 2021 meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. having a quorum and indicated the meeting is being recorded. Chair instructed the Commissioners that the only item to be discussed and deliberated on was the qualifications of Robert Akroyd to be approved or not as the restoration Consultant. The Consultant's work would pertain to property owned by David Levenfeld at 229 South Cove Drive, Becket, MA and the full restoration of the area as indicated in the WPA Form 9 Enforcement Order dated July 7th, 2021

SINGLE AGENDA ITEM:

Robert Akroyd provided a copy of his resume to the Chair, which was shared with all the Commissioners for review prior to the meeting. A copy of the resume is attached to these minutes. Robert provided a slide presentation on an extensive restoration project. The Chair called for a motion to approve Robert as the Consultant for David Levenfeld's property. The motion was made by Jim Schaefer and seconded by Henry Scarpo. The Chair opened the motion to discussion. Meredyth ask Robert if he was fully aware of the scope and requirements of the enforcement order that had been issued. It was apparent to the Commission that Robert had not been provided the complete details of the restoration order. The Commission emphasized that this was a complete restoration of the disturbed area returning it back to its original condition prior to any work being performed in the buffer zone. The Chair called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

Points of clarification for Consultant regarding the removal and restoration plan:

1. The enforcement order requires the removal of all the stairs, cement footing for bottom stair at water's edge, boat shed, the cement slab foundation, water drainage pipe, and removal of construction debris to the left of the shed.
2. A full restoration of vegetation and plantings for the disturbed buffer zone in order to return the area to preconstruction condition.
3. The due date for the restoration plan as indicated on the enforcement order is August 15th. The Chair indicated if the Consultant needed more time in order to complete a workable plan, he would accept the plan up until August 23rd, the day before the next scheduled meeting. The Consultant must notify the Chair if August 15th deadline cannot be met.
4. The enforcement order will require full compliance and the Commission will not consider an application for anything to be built in this buffer zone until there is a full restoration of the disturbed area.
5. The property owner has the legal right to file an application in the future. The Commission reserves the right to deliberate on any future application based on the Wetland Protection Act requirements and standards.
6. The Commission reserves the right to edit and or amend the Consultant's plan with reason.
7. The property owner is directly responsible for any and all expenses rendered to him by the Consultant for the restoration plan inclusive of all work and services.

The following documents are being provided to the Consultant:

1. Pages 1 thru 4, July 5th, 2021 BCC minutes
2. 2019-11-26 RDA amended
3. Enforcement order
4. 2019-11-26 Photo – stairs preconstruction
5. 2019-11-26 Photo – dock storage preconstruction

Chair made motion to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. - seconded, and passed by unanimously consent

Next Scheduled Meeting: August 24th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission meeting minutes

Prepared by Dave Johnson, Chair

Date: 08/09/2021