

**Town of Becket Conservation Commission
23 February, 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, Doug Bessone, Cindy Delpapa, Henry Hagenah, Henry Scarpo, and Conservation Agent Stacy Parsons

Commissioner(s) not in Attendance: Meredyth Babcock

Members of the public participating virtually: Leonard Chumofski and Fred Sears (every attempt was made to capture and correctly record the names of all people participating virtually)

Introduction of the Commissioners: Chair Johnson called the 23 February, 2021 Becket Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:36 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).* F Sear, representing the applicant, summarized the changes made to the plan based on questions and input from the BCC. The planting plan notes the species and number of trees 8" DBH or greater to be cut. A grading plan is now shown on the plan with a corrected house foot print. He noted the deck will now be cantilevered from the second floor requiring no in-ground supports. The proposed well will be 14' from the property line, 21' from the wetland and 25' from the lake with the pit to accept drill cuttings adjacent. Trees need to be removed to accommodate the drill rig. Chair Johnson asked Agent Parson for her questions. She requested clarification about the trees adjacent to the drive. F Sears says the existing and proposed tree line is the same. Second question concerned the placement of the drilling cutting pit's placement on the lake and wetland side of the proposed well. F Sears explained the drill rig would be on the 'house side' so the pit could not be placed there but the well could be shifted a bit up slope. Ha also suggested there was not a need to have a pump truck to pump out the well at the site constantly. He recommended the pump truck be brought in only when the level in the pit is nearing the top. Question about what is meant by a temporary access road. F Sears explained the road is needed for the drill rig and can be fabric topped with gravel to allow it to be removed later or swamp mats can be laid down but these details have not been discussed with the owner. Consensus was the mats would be preferable. Question was asked what the final ground cover will be of the area within the erosion control delineated work area. In answer F Sears said the regraded area around the house is slated for lawn and the remainder could be meadow. Question about the total loss of treed area and number of trees. F Sears did not know the percent loss but estimated 25% and there will be 13 trees of greater than 8" as noted on the updated plan. Follow-up question on the proposed species of trees to be planted and their size. Since the owners are landscapers, F Sears explained, their intention is to transplant trees, probably hemlocks, from the wooded area onsite. It was noted the erosion control barriers was quite sound and appreciated the owner being pro-active by including a stormwater infiltration unit but Commissioner noted these units need to be maintained to prevent unintended water quality problems which has the potential to impact the well. F Sears explained the unit was designed to overflow in heavy rains. Related, F Sears noted the downspouts will connect to the infiltration unit. In response to a question about the house's foundation, F Sears explained there would be only 4' frost walls and no foundation. Commissioner recommended the owner consider not straight meadow in the area adjacent to the lake and consider some shrubs to discourage Canada geese from congregating. Commissioner asked if the BOH has approved the septic system. Agent Parsons explained the intertwined BOH-BCC approval process. F Sears explained the BOH needs to grant a variance on the well and the Board decided to wait for the decision by the Commission but the septic is approved for a one bedroom. Question on the time of

year the well will be drilled? F Sears noted the use of swamp mats would allow the work to be done at any time and anticipated the well will be installed before any of the other work will begin because of the access needs of the drill rig. Question asked about a liner in the drill pit. It is typical not to have a liner and at the end of the drilling the pit is simply filled in. Motion made to issue an Order of Conditions for the construction of a residence and installation of a well at 0 Sherwood Drive (Map 215, Lot 197; DEP File #102-0459) with Becket standard conditions, and the following special conditions: well drilling will be stopped if the drill pit is approving being full and will not resume until the pit is pumped out, swamp mats will be used for the temporary access road, the stormwater infiltration unit will be maintained according to manufacturer's recommendation and these recommendations will be shared with the BCC, revegetation will be monitored for three years, the lawn area will not extend farther than 35 feet from the edge of the house with a recommendation the area beyond be meadow and shrub. (Hagenah/ Bessone). MSV with Hagenah's vote not heard because a technology glitch.

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. D Johnson visited the site. There was limited visibility of the landscape because of the snow but the trees are dead or dying with the closest tree 30 feet from the lake. They are all small trees and will need to be cut with a chain saw. Did not see any real issues with the small amount of erosion present. Question was asked about the slope in the area. L Churnetski, the applicant, estimated the slope at 15 degrees. A question about the timing of this work- if it would occur under frozen conditions? L Churnetski would like it done under frozen conditions but it all depends on when the arborist is able to fit in the work and he has not heard. Question about how erosion noted in application will be mitigated once trees are removed. Chair Johnson responded that these are dead trees and the owner has a right to remove the trees but see value in applying some grass seed in exposed areas. Follow-up question about the root cause of the erosion. The owner did not know but maybe the runoff from the above garden area but he is just trying to remove dangerous trees. Motion made to issue a negative determination number 3 for tree cutting and removal of six trees 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, (Hagenah/Bessone). MSV.

Additional Items

Update regarding drawdown information submitted by the Indian Lake Association. Chair Johnson spoke with M Stintson of MA DEP and a letter from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is advisory. Agent Parsons did not see this in the OOC. Commissioner read the excerpt from the November, 2019 BBC meeting stating to Mr. Schaefer of the Indian Lake Association that the OOC needs to be followed: "J Schaefer raised the issue of the draw-down of Indian Lake. Because of the recent rains the draw-down is unlikely to meet the target by the end of November. The Indian Lake Association would like to extend the draw-down. Commissioners noted the OOC requires a 30 November end date for the draw-down and a maximum draw-down rate. **Draw-down must stop by 30 November. A letter from MA Natural Heritage stating an extension would be acceptable may be submitted to the Commission for consideration but until this happens all of the conditions in the OOC are in effect.**" Chair Johnson interjected it was important to keep in mind what the BCC hopes to accomplish and M Stintson did not feel going over one day was an issue. Commissioner Delpapa tried to explain the ILA showed it was **significantly more** than a day. **Chair disagrees with the term substantial asserting that the records show it ended on December 5th which was de minimis.** Commissioner Delpapa resigned.

Update: Education & the conservation commission

Update: Grant business

Review and approval of January 26, 2021 Conservation Commission Meeting minutes. Motion made to approve the 26 January 2021 Becket Conservation Commission Meeting minutes, (Hagenah/Bessone). MSV with Delpapa vote not heard because a technology glitch.

General Mail

Motion made to adjourn the 23 February, 2021 Becket Conservation Commission meeting, (Hagenah/Bessone), MSV. Chair Johnson adjourned the 23 February, 2021 Becket Conservation Commission meeting at 7:50 PM.