

Town of Becket Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: May 24th, 2022

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, Vice Chair Hank Hagenah, Jim Schaefer, Doug Bessone, John Verity, and Nic Pietroniro Conservation Agent

Guest in Attendance: William Johnson

Commissioners participating virtually: none

Commissioners Not in Attendance: Henry Scarpo

Others in virtual or audio attendance: Fred Sears, Michael and Lynn Atman, Sergey and Olga Katelin

The Chair Johnson called the May 24th, 2022 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. having a quorum and indicated the meeting is being recorded. Chair emphasized that the meeting agenda included introduction comments that wouldn't be read and that it is the responsibility of each applicant and all others in attendance to review.

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

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Enforcement Order Update: Jason Lacourciere for the replacement planting of 5 new 8'-10' tall arborvitae trees in an existing planter at the Public Beach Access area on Otis Road (Map 204, Lot 145) within the 100-foot buffer zone of Shaw Pond. Chair indicated five 8-10-foot-tall arborvitae trees were delivered to the town beach and planted on May 24, 2022. The Chair coordinated the tree's location and spacing with the contractor performing the planting.

2. Order of Conditions Extension Request: Submitted by Jacobs Hollow Road Association for a three-year extension of an issue Order of Conditions (MassDEP#102-413) to continue the general maintenance of roads.

Issues: None

Motion: by Hank, seconded by Jim, motion carried unanimously

3. Request for Certificate of Compliance: Submitted by Sergey and Olga Kaletin for work partially completed under an Order of Conditions (MassDEP#102-0431).

Issues: The BCC site visit on May 20th 2022 revealed a number of Wetland violations. The Chair asked for a motion to issue an enforcement order requiring the property owner to retain a wetland's consultant to identify any and all violations and how they should be remediated.

Motion: by Hank, seconded by Jim, motion carried unanimously

Note: The property owner was advised that the enforcement will contain a cease-and-desist order for any and all work on the property. The Chair asked the property owner if he clearly understood what was being required of him under this enforcement order, which was answered in the affirmative.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

4. Request for Determination of Applicability: Submitted by Tyce Walters for work associated with a septic system upgrade and proposed private water supply well at 1505 County Road (Map 401, Lot 14) within a buffer zone.

Issues: Most of the work was not jurisdictional. There was concern about the erosion control behind the dwelling in the area between the well and the designated wetland.

Motion: by Hank and to extend erosion control behind dwelling up toward the well area, seconded by John, motion carried unanimously

- 5. Request for Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Kathryn Strohmer for the removal of three trees along the bank of Center Pond at 243 East Shore Road (Map 211, Lot 112).

Issues: Three trees that are distressed, leaning toward the lake, and causing the shore bank area to collapse toward the pond.

Motion: by Hank to cut the trees level to the ground and plant six (6) two-foot or taller native blueberry bushes in same approximate area, seconded by John, motion carried unanimously

- 6. Request for Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Lynn Aptman for the construction of an addition to a single-family home within the buffer zone of Yokum Pond at 76 Frederick Court (Map 203, Lot 18.4).

Issues: The addition in the front of the house is not jurisdictional. The addition in the back side of the house is jurisdictional. Concern for erosion control behind the dwelling.

Motion: by Hank, seconded by Jim: motion for amendment by Hank, seconded by Doug to require erosion control measures to extend 20-feet in both directions past the corner footprint of the rear addition, amended motion carried unanimously, original motion carried unanimously.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

The commission discussed the need to develop a policy on tree removal.

Chair discussed the increased real estate tax issue and remedies for people who have potentially non-buildable lots located on or near the lakes or ponds. The primary remedy is a failed perk-test through the BOH.

To be continued to a future meeting is a review of the RDA standard order of conditions and the BCC web page.

Date for Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, June 28th, 2022, in the Community Room, at 6:00-9:00 pm

Motion to Adjournment at 7:18 p.m. - carried unanimously

Conservation Commission meeting minutes

Prepared by Dave Johnson, Chair

Edit Date: 05/26/2022