

Town of Becket Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: November 15th, 2022

The Becket Conservation Commission (BCC) 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, Henry Scarpo, and Nic Pietroniro Conservation Agent

Guest in Attendance: Dave Cameron, Allyssa Maggi

Commissioners participating virtually: John Verity, Chris Clapper, Andrew Jackson

Commissioners Not in Attendance: none

Others participating virtually or by audio attendance: Mike Kulig, Jim Straub, Meredyth Babcock, Paula Katlin, Ann Carol, Chris Swindlehurst

The Chair Johnson called the November 15th, 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.

At 6:00 pm the Chair opened the meeting for public comment not on the agenda. Not hearing any comments, it was closed for public comment.

New Business:

- 1. Emergency Certification:** Issued for the removal of a tree threatening a single-family home at 59 Williams Road (Map 211, Lot 51).
Issue: none – application provided sufficient details
Motion: to approve the emergency certification by Hank, seconded by Henry, motion carried unanimously 7-0.
- 2. Request for Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Robert E. Harrison of Berkshire Design, Inc. for the demolition and rebuilding of a shed addition on a single-family home in the Riverfront Area of Yokum Brook at 3307 Main Street (Map 206, Lot 99).
Issue: add additional erosion control needed to be wrapped around the driveway
Motion: to approve the Request for Determination with order of condition of addition erosion controls by Hank, seconded by Jim, motion carried unanimously 7-0.
- 3. Request for Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Gaetan Thibault for the work associated with a septic system upgrade in the Buffer Zone of a wetland at 145 Prince John Drive (Map 217, Lot 110).
Issue: add two native trees or two native bushes
Motion: to approve the Request for Determination with order of condition to plant either two native bushes or trees by Jim, seconded by Henry, motion carried unanimously 7-0.
- 4. Request for Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for the upgrade of the existing 16B1 distribution line along George Carter Road. Most of the work may be considered exempt, except for the installation of two new poles and the removal of two trees in the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and Riverfront Area.

Issue: removal of two distressed trees in the Buffer Zone

Motion: to approve the Request for Determination including the removal of two distressed trees by Jim, seconded by Henry, motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Continuing Business:

- 5. Enforcement Order:** Issued to Jack and Carol Attias of 43 Greenbrook Road (Map 207, Lot 55) for unpermitted removal of beaver dams on Pill Pond, alteration of several Resource Areas, and piling of materials in Resource Area and Buffer Zone.

Issue: insufficient information to determine if any remediation is necessary, BCC to consider another site visit

Motion: to approve a continuance to the December 20th, 2022 BCC meeting by Jim, seconded by Henry, motion carried unanimously 7-0.

- 6. Notice of Intent:** Submitted by Jim Straub of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for a five-year aquatic plant management plan on Buckley Dunton Pond (MassDEP #102-0467). Plan would include the management of Eastern Purple Bladderwort and Little Floating Bladderwort from the southern cove of the Pond using mechanical removal methods.

Issue: there was considerable discussion for the need to perform hydroraking, scope of the project, criteria for initiation any work in the Resource Area, and potential use of chemicals – Chair did not believe the application met the Wetland's Protection requirements and declined to call for a motion – Chair indicated to the Commissioners they could make a motion and second it

Motion: to approve by Hank, seconded by Jim the NOI with OOCs a-h: Voted Yes: Jim, Hank, Henry, John
Voted No: Doug, Chris, Dave – motion with OOCs carried by majority 4-3

Order of Conditions:

NOI – MassDEP #102-0467 – Buckley Dunton aquatic plant management plan OOCs:

- a. The only treatment permitted under the submitted NOI is for the exclusive hydro-racking of bladderwort.
- b. The threshold to consider hydroraking will be the presence of bladderwort at 50% or greater in the delineated area as specified in the NOI application and supporting documents.
- c. The methodology used to measure future presence of bladderwort will be consistent with methods used to in determining levels as provided in the NOI application.
- d. The Becket Conservation Commission will receive a notice of treatment regarding the hydroraking a minimum of seven-days (7) prior to work beginning.
- e. The abutting homeowners will receive a notice of treatment regarding the hydroraking a minimum of seven-days (7) prior to work beginning.
- f. DCR will be responsible for certifying to the Commission that the hydroraking and any other watercraft are cleaned before entering Buckley Dunton Pond.
- g. The hydroraking must be performed only in areas where the water depth exceeds two feet (2)
- h. The bladderwort harvested will be removed from the Buckley Dunton Pond area.

Minutes from prior meetings ratified: (none)

2022-10-23 minutes deferred to 12-20-2022 BCC meeting

2022-11-15 minutes deferred to 12-20-2022 BCC meeting

Additional Items: None

Date for Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, December 20th, 2022, in the Community Room, at 5:00 to 9:00 pm

Motion to Adjournment at 8:27 pm - carried unanimously 7-0

Becket Conservation Commission meeting minutes

Prepared by Dave Johnson, Chair

Edit Date 12/05/2022

Ratified