

Town of Becket Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: July 25th, 2023

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, Jim Schaefer, Doug Bessone, Henry Scarpo, Chris Clapper, and Nic Pietroniro Conservation Agent

Commissioners participating virtually: none

Commissioners Not in Attendance: Hank Hagenah

Others in Attendance: Shannon Boosma, David Friar

Others participating virtually: Tim Hart, Mike Kulig, Virginia Martell, Chris Larose

The Chair called the July 25th, 2023 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. having a quorum of six, (6) Commissioners and indicated the meeting is being recorded. The 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.

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

New Business:

1. Request for an Extension of Order of Conditions: Submitted by the Center Pond Restoration & Protection District for an extension of their Order of Conditions under MassDEP #102-0436.

Issues: None. The applicant is up to date on all their required reporting.

Motion: to extend the Order of Conditions to December 28, 2027 by Jim, seconded by Henry, motion carried unanimously 6-0

2. Request for a Certificate of Compliance: Submitted by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Company for the completion of activities associated with the Order of Conditions for MassDEP #102-0466.

Issues: None. The applicant provided sufficient documentation demonstrating compliance of the OOC.

Motion: to issue a Certificate of Compliance by Henry, seconded by Jim, carried unanimously 6-0

3. Request for a Determination of Applicability: Submitted by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Company for the installation, replacement, and maintenance of wood utility poles along the existing 18C2 distribution line on South Washington Road. Of the proposed work, 8 new poles and associated tree removal are not exempt and require approval.

Issues: None. Trees identified in the application poised a risk of falling into the powerlines.

Motion: to issue a negative three (3) determination by Chris, seconded by Henry, motion carried unanimously 6-0

- 4. Request for a Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Timothy Hart for the work associated with an upgrade to an existing septic system at 98 Dawn Drive (Map 204, Lot 71). Tank is to remain, new pump chamber and leaching field to be installed.

Issues: None. The leaching field needed to be replaced and a tree removed to prevent future root damage to the system.

Motion: to issue a negative three (3) determination including the removal of a poplar tree by Jim, seconded by Henry, motion carried unanimously 6-0

- 5. Request for a Certificate of Compliance:** Submitted by Gregory Cohen for the completion of the redevelopment project associated with MassDEP #102-0419 674 Benton Hill Road (Map 209 Lot 23)

Issues: None. The applicant provided sufficient documentation demonstrating compliance of the OOC. Two OOCs #4 (four) and #21 (twenty-one) are to remain in perpetuity.

Motion: to issue a Certificate of Compliance with OCCs #4 and #21 remaining in perpetuity by Chris, seconded by John, carried unanimously 6-0

Continuing Business:

- 6. Enforcement Order Update:** Issued to Jack and Carol Attias of 43 Greenbrook Road (Map 207, Lot 55).

Issues: A pile of debris from beaver dam needed to be removed from the resource area adjacent to the dam. Site inspection confirmed the removal of the debris.

Motion: to remove the Enforcement Order Jim, seconded by John, motion carried by majority 5-0-01 Doug abstained.

- 7. Enforcement Order Update:** Issued to Jonathan Barrows for unpermitted work in the Buffer Zone within a Resource area 0 Quarry Road (Map 416, Lot 13).

Issues: Commission has not received documentation required – agent to contact the property owner

Motion: to continue the Enforcement Order to the August 22nd, 2023 BCC meeting by Jim, seconded by Henry, motion carried unanimously 6-0

Additional Items:

Thomas Brook Conservation Area Proposal – Commissioners agreed on creating a proposal for Thomas Brook Conservation Area.

Reviewed and Approved the BCC minutes: June 27th, 2023 meeting – approved unanimously 5-0

Motion to approve up to \$750 to purchase hardhats and orange vest for site visits – approved unanimously 6-0

Discussion with White Engineering requesting additional erosion controls be implemented around the foundation of Dan Henry's house on Greenwater Pond that is under construction. Significant erosion is occurring. Commission to follow up with White Engineering the first week of August.

Next regular scheduled meeting: Tuesday August 22nd, 2023, in the Community Room, at 7:32 pm.

Motion for Adjournment – motion carried unanimously 6-0

Prepared by Dave Johnson, BCC Chair, 08/22/2023