

Town of Becket Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: September 26th, 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, Hank Hagenah, and Nic Pietroniro Conservation Agent

Commissioners participating virtually: none

Commissioners Not in attendance: John Verity

Others in Attendance: Mark Voltze, Aimee Bucciarelli,

Others participating virtually: Alexander Trop, Art Feltman, Dale Wallington

The Chair called the September 26th 2023 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. having a quorum of six (6) Commissioners and indicated the meeting is NOT being recorded. The chair emphasized that the meeting agenda included introductory comments that wouldn't be read and that it is the responsibility of each applicant and all others in attendance to review the meeting protocol.

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 a Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Berkshire Contractor LLC. for a proposed driveway within the Bufferzone of the bank of Yokum Pond at 0 Frederick Court. (Map 203, Lot 18.6).

Issues: None - Scope of work was outside the Bufferzone.

Motion: no deliberation required

- 2. Request for a Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Charles Corcoran for the work associated with the upgrade of a failed septic system within the Bufferzone of a BVW at 192 Benton Hill Rd. (Map 209, Lot 47).

Issues: none

Motion: to approve a Negative 3 Determination for work in the Bufferzone by Chris, seconded by Hank, carried unanimously 6-0

Order of conditions: none

- 3. Request for a Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by AMBCF Holdings for the removal of 11 (eleven) trees within the Bufferzone of a BVW at 3238 Main St. (Map 207, Lot 69).

Issues: trees are on the shared property line with the abutting neighbor

Motion: to approve a Negative 3 Determination for work in the Bufferzone by Hank, seconded by Chris, with the Condition that a letter is provided to the Becket Conservation Commission by the abutting neighbor giving the applicant permission to cut the eleven (11) trees level to the ground; carried unanimously 6-0

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Order of Conditions: none

- 4. Request for a Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Art Feltman and Dale Wallington for the construction of an addition on a single-family home within the Bufferzone of the Bank of Center Pond at 281 South Cove Rd. (Map 211, Lot 36)

Issues: Information on application was sufficient to make a decision

Motion: to approve a Negative 3 Determination by Jim, seconded by Henry, with the condition that erosion control measures are used to a width of 30 feet directly downhill from the work area; carried unanimously 6-0

- 5. Request for a Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Amy M. Hayes for the work associated with additions to a single-family home and the demolition and replacement of a garage for a new structure within the Bufferzone of Greenwater Pond at 152 Greenwater Dr. (Map 202, Lot 33).

Issues: Need for erosion controls

Motion: to approve a Negative 3 Determination by Chris seconded by Hank carried; carried unanimously 6-0

Order of Conditions: erosion controls around the drainage pipe and along the adjacent stone wall

- 6. Request for a Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Kathryn Strohmer for the removal of four (4) trees within the Bufferzone of the Bank of Center Pond at 303 Old Pond Rd. (Map 210, Lot 54).

Issues: Site visit observation - the trees appeared healthy and not distressed, not enough information to make a negative decision, Commission is requesting a letter from a certified arborist that the need to be cut down and why

Motion: to continue the application to the October 24th BCC meeting by Jim, seconded by Hank; carried unanimously 6-0

- 7. Request for a Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Robert Benton for the installation of steps on a path within the Bufferzone of the Bank of Indian Lake at 0 Algerie Rd. (Map 219, Lot 230).

Issues: Information on application was sufficient to make a decision

Motion: to approve a Negative 3 Determination by Hank, seconded by Chris carried by majority 5-0-1, Jim abstained

Order of Conditions: none

- 8. Request for a Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Maureen Lally for the removal of four (4) trees within the Bufferzone of the Bank of Center Pond at 171 Old Pond Rd

Issues: trees were severely compromised

Motion: to approve a Negative 3 Determination by Chris with the condition that the tree stumps must remain, seconded by Hank carried; carried unanimously 6-0

Order of Conditions: leave the tree stump

- 9. Notice of Intent:** Submitted by Foresight Land Services for a new driveway crossing through a BVW using two culverts, a boardwalk on helical piers that crosses within a BVW, and a footpath within a

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Bufferzone. BVW is proposed to be replicated on site, and an existing driveway is to be removed and landscaped at 19 Switter Lane (Map 203, Lot 22 & 21).

Issues: concern about impact on area in wetland

Motion: to approve a Negative 3 Determination by Chris with the condition that the tree the stumps must remain, seconded by Hank carried; carried by majority 5-0-1, Hank abstained

Order of Conditions: none

- 10. Request for a Certificate of Compliance:** Submitted by Art Feltman and Dale Wallington for the completion of the work associated with MassDEP#102-205 issued 8/17/2000 at 281 South Cove Rd. (Map 211, Lot 36).

Issues: none

Motion: to approve the Certificate of Compliance by Hank, seconded by Henry; carried unanimously 6-0

- 11. Request for a Certificate of Compliance:** Submitted by the Katherine Warden, Town of Becket, for the completion of the work associated with MassDEP#102-0450 issued 7/10/2020 on Werden Rd.

Issues: none

Motion: to approve the Certificate of Compliance by Jim, seconded by Henry; carried unanimously 6-0

- 12. Request for a Certificate of Compliance:** Submitted by Kim Bergland for completion of the work associated with MassDEP#102-0069 issued 3/15/1990 at 151 Long Bow Lane W. (Map 213, Lot 71).

Issues: None

Motion: to approve the Certificate of Compliance by Hank, seconded by Henry; carried unanimously 6-0

- 13. Request for a Certificate of Compliance:** Submitted by Kim Bergland for completion of the work associated with MassDEP#102-0223 issued 12/09/2001 at 151 Long Bow Lane W. (Map 213, Lot 71).

Issues: Commission did a site inspection at a different location, therefore needs to schedule another site visit before next regular meeting

Motion: to move to a continuance until next regular meeting by Chris, seconded by Henry; carried unanimously 6-0

Continuing Business:

- 14. Request for a Determination of Applicability:** Submitted by Sally Eldred for the work associated with the installation of a new septic system, leach field and pump chamber within the buffer zone of the Bank of Robinhood lake located at 460 Wells Road (Map 216, Lot 454).

Issues: insufficient documentation and authority of applicant for Commission to deliberate

Motion: to move to a continuance until next regular meeting by Chris, seconded by Hank; carried unanimously 6-0

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15. Enforcement Order Update: Issued to Jonathan Barrows for road, tree clearing, placement of gravel/rock, storage of fill material, and possible grading has occurred within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and possibly within the resource area. Unpermitted work occurred at 0 Quarry Road (Map 416, Lot 13).

Issues: requested information not provided to the Commission

Motion: move to a continuance next regular meeting by Hank, seconded by Hank; carried unanimously 6-0

Additional Items:

- a. Safety equipment update: yellow vests and hard hats
- b. Eversource Improvement Projects
- c. Thomas Brook Conservation Area Proposal
- d. Shaker Mill Brook Conservation Land
- e. MACC Convention
- f. Discussion of fee schedule deferred to next meeting
- g. Correspondence/Items needing attention
- h. Review and Approval BCC minutes - August 22nd Meeting ratified unanimously 6-0

Motion and second to approve the 2023-08-22 BCC minutes, carried unanimously 6-0

Next meeting Tuesday October 24th, 2023, in the Community Room, at 6:00 pm.

Motion for Adjournment: motion to adjourn at 8:27 pm – carried unanimously 6-0

Prepared by David Johnson, BCC Chair, 12-20-2023