Sherwood Forest Lake District

Prudential Committee Meeting

Date Saturday, December 10, 2016

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Becket Town Hall

557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members present: Dr. Howard G. Lerner (Chair), Stanley C. Taylor (Vice Chair), William F. Maier, Vernice D. Cowell, Joan M. Goldberg, Dennis B. Guerri and, Clerk/Treasurer Robert T. Ronzio.

Committee Members absent: Nancy J. Fishell and William J. Osborn III.

Public Present: None

Location: Becket Town Hall, 557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223

Introduction - Dr. Lerner opened the meeting with a call to order at 10:02 AM and announced that parliamentary procedural rules previously adopted will regulate and conduct of the meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meeting Law (OML), other pertinent Massachusetts general laws, the by-laws of the district and local customs and traditions. Mr. Taylor made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Open Meeting Law, Ms. Goldberg seconded, hearing no opposition, Dr. Lerner dispensed with the reading. Dr. Lerner asked if anyone present planned to record the meeting. Dr. Lerner stated that he was aware that the district clerk would record the meeting for Mr. Ronzio’s brother. Dr. Lerner noted that there were agendas on the table for all present. He again stated that the aforementioned guidelines are being followed to insure that the district complied with the General Laws of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Ronzio distributed copies of the agendas to those in attendance.

1. **Prudential Committee Members Comments and Announcements -** None.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from Previous Meeting –** Tabled

**3. Dam Management –**

1. **Lancelot Lake Engineering Contract -** Dr. Lerner reported that that with the committee’s prior authorization, he has executed the contract with Tighe and Bond and consummated the state grant agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
2. **Lancelot Lake Town Property Acquisition -** Mr. Ronzio stated that the Town of Becket accepted the District’s bid of $2500 and would transfer the property in the spring of 2017.
3. **Lancelot Lake Hill Engineering Expanded Topographic and Bathymetric Survey Report-** Mr. Ronzio reported on the additional survey work to be done by Hill Engineering. He explained that Hill Engineering prepared the original topographic documentation for Lancelot and it made sense to have them complete the needed bathymetric survey requested by Tighe & Bond. The cost is estimated to be $5800. As normal Hill has asked the district to send them a $2,000 retainer. Mr. Ronzio concluded that once this survey work is done then Tighe and Bond can begin their work.
4. **Little Robin Spillway Stop Logs (Con Com Permanent Order) -** Mr. Lerner noted that this will be address in the spring as it is impossible to due any work during the winter months.
5. **Emergency Action Plan - Contact Information Review -** Dr. Lerner noted that he would contact Ms. Fishell to get an update.
6. **Conservation Commission Big Robin Certificate of Compliance** – Dr. Lerner noted that this would be addressed in the spring.
7. **Lake Management -**
8. **Ecosystem Consulting Svc - Flow Routing System for Lancelot & Big Robin Repair -** Mr. Maier confirmed that he would have his budget estimates ready for the January meeting. He informed the committee members that they should expect some small increases, which he previously explained. He noted that Ecosystems would not be able to provide a precise figure until the engineering plans for Lancelot are completed by Tighe & Bond. Mr. Ronzio reminded the committee that they are already over budget due to unforeseen expenses last summer. Prudential Committee members agree to defer the discussion until the budgeting portion of the meeting. Mr. Maier indicated that he would like to discuss selective dredging at a future meeting. He noted that the process is referred to as hydro raking.
9. **Weed Harvester Registration -** To be discussed at a future meeting.
10. **Beach and Boat Management**

**a. Beach and Dam Mowing plan for summer 2017 -** Dr. Lerner stated that he will be getting the bid package together by January and that he would like to include the removal of more brush in the beach areas in particular.

**b. Beach Areas - Expanded Brush Removal -** Dr. Lerner stated that the committee should consider the additional work and related cost when preparing the Invitation for Bid (IFB) for next spring.

**6. Property Acquisitions/Donations - Firkey, Map 216 Lot 265 -** Mr. Ronzio reported that the owner wishes to donate this property. He explained that there may be some complications with the donation and the matter has been referred to the district’s attorney for resolution. The property is located on King Richard Drive across the street from the Little Robin spillway.

**7. District Office Plan**

1. **Electrical Service Inspection -** Dr. Lerner stated that a licensed electrician did a walk through at 25 Will Scarlet Drive and reported his findings. Mr. Ronzio stated that the report was strictly verbal in nature since the individual was donating his time. Overall he felt the electrical system is in good shape. However, he recommended that the district should consider replacing some item such as the service panel and outlets, etc. Committee members agree to wait until spring to have the work done. Mr. Taylor made a motion to authorize the electrical work, Mr. Maier seconded; Unanimous approval.
2. **Storage of Lake & Road District Equipment and Supplies -** Dr. Lerner noted that building is now being utilized for storage of some documents as well as dam and road district supplies.

**8. Website & Reporting Monthly Activity**- Ms. Cowell reported that the website has been mostly quiet, with a similar number of users hits from the prior month. She stated that she is optimistic that when the tax bills are released she should expect more activity. Ms. Cowell asked Mr. Ronzio to send along draft meeting minutes rather than wait until they are approved.

**9. Opt-Out Requests -** Mr. Ronzio stated there are no new requests.

**10. Any Other Business to come before the Committee –** Committee members briefly discussed the private beaver trapping that has taken place primarily on Big Robin Lake. Dr. Lerner explained what has been going on with a small group of homeowners that have been doing the trapping during the open trapping season that started on November 1, 2016. Mr. Ronzio provided further information pertaining to this process. He noted that there is no relocation procedure and the trapping inevitably ends in termination. Dr. Lerner informed everyone that beavers are nocturnal and conduct most of their business between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM. Ms. Golberg made a motion that the Lake District take on the responsibility of removing problematic beavers, within Lake District jurisdiction, Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. Discussion ensued: Mr. Ronzio indicated that the committee needed to think about the financial repercussions and that this would have to be added into the budget. At this time an anticipated approximate yearly cost would be difficult to estimate. Committee members further discussed. Mr. Maier stated that this would need to be reviewed on an individual basis, as every situation would be different. Dr. Lerner polled the committee for a vote; all voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lerner stated that the newly adopted procedures would be posted on the website.

Dr. Lerner asked if the committee should include otters in this new policy, as otters eat large quantities of fish. Mr. Maier stated that otters should not be included in the new policy. There is no desire to trap otters.

Next, Dr. Lerner informed that committee that there is a trailer located behind the Sherwood Shoppe that is currently crossing over Lake District property to access the back portion of their property. Dr. Lerner indicated that this is a potential liability for the district. He indicated that there is access to the property on Dragon Way, however the property owner would need to clear away the junk that is currently blocking access to the back of the lot. Ms. Goldberg made a motion to have the District’s attorney send a certified, return receipt requested, as well as a Fed-Ex letter to the property owners as well as the renters that are currently residing on the property, as well as posting a “No Trespassing” sign at the location, Mr. Taylor seconded; Unanimous approval.

Mr. Ronzio added that the district’s land site is currently being used to store excess dam material, and mulch in the event of an emergency. Committee members discuss. A second motion is made for the Lake District to allow the Road District to store emergency road repair material for the remainder of the year, Mr. Taylor seconded. Discussion: Committee members discuss other possibilities as well as some unforeseen complications. For now, the committee agreed to refer the matter of road district storage to the district’s attorney.

**11. Public Input-** None

**Review Correspondence -** Dr. Lerner provided Mr. Ronzio with the new insurance policy that he received for proper filing. Mr. Ronzio presents the turn over report for Committee review.

**Warrants #5 FY2017 -** Dr. Lerner presented the warrant as prepared, with an amendment to include payment of the $2,000.00 retainer fee for Hill Engineering. Dr. Lerner presented a second amendment to provide a $5,000.00 payment for Tighe and Bond for the preliminary engineering work on Lancelot. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the warrant as amended, Mr. Guerri seconded; the warrant is approved unanimously. Mr. Ronzio reviewed the district’s bank statement and financials, bringing the committee up to date on all current expenditures.

1. **Adjournment –** Ms. Goldberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Taylor seconded. Unanimously approved. The meeting is adjourned at 11:56 AM.

**Schedule:** Next meeting Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Robert T. Ronzio

Clerk & Treasurer

Sherwood Forest Lake District

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Dr. Howard G. Lerner (Chair)

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Stanley C. Taylor (Vice Chair)

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Nancy J. Fishell

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Vernice D. Cowell

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William F. Maier

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Dennis B. Guerri

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 William J. Osborn III

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Joan M. Goldberg