Sherwood Forest Lake District

Prudential Committee Meeting

Date Saturday, October 14, 2017

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Becket Town Hall

557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members present: Dr. Howard G. Lerner (Chair), Vernice D. Cowell, Dennis B. Guerri, Nancy J. Fishell, and William J. Osborn III and, Clerk/Treasurer Robert T. Ronzio.

Committee Members absent: Joan M. Goldberg, Stanley C. Taylor (Vice Chair) and William F. Maier.

Public Present: Mr. Steve Rosenthal

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

Introduction - Dr. Lerner opened the meeting with a call to order at 10:08 AM and announced that parliamentary procedural rules previously adopted will regulate the 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. Osborne made a motion to dispense with the reading of the Open Meeting Law, Ms. Cowell 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. **Prudential Committee to review minute of prior meetings**.
	1. **Approval of August 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes -** Prudential Committee members read and reviewed August meeting minutes and made a few minor grammatical changes. Ms. Cowell made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Mr. Guerri seconded; Unanimous Approval.

* 1. **Approval of September 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes -** Prudential Committee members read and review September meeting minutes and made a few minor changes. Ms. Cowell made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Mr. Guerri seconded; Unanimous Approval.

1. **Dam Management –**
2. **Lancelot Lake Engineering Update -** Dr. Lerner stated that there is nothing new to report. Mr. Ronzio added that things are presently being held up with the Conservation Commission as the commissioners are questioning the necessity of the inlet work. He noted that until the inlet issues are resolved the entire Lancelot dam project cannot move ahead even though the conservation commissioners have not issues with the main part of the restoration plan.
3. **Lancelot Lake Grant Application Filing -** Dr. Lerner noted that the district is awaiting the outcome of its grant application. He stated that the award announcements are expected to take place sometime in late October.
4. **Lancelot Lake Conservation Commission NOI Filing -** Dr. Lerner stated that Attorney Goodman has been working on this with the District. Mr. Ronzio added that Attorney Goodman has been in contact with Tighe and Bond to ascertain the status of the updated NOI filing for the project.
5. **Lancelot Lake Property Acquisition -** Mr. Ronzio updated the committee. He stated that the District is waiting for the select board the to sign the documents. He noted that once this is completed the Town would forward the deed to Attorney Goodman who will record it at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds.

1. **Little Robin Dam Gate Repair -** Mr. Ronzio stated that he communicated with the contractor, All American Fence Co., who installed the gate and noted that they have agreed to re-weld the latch mechanism when they are in the area. Dr. Lerner stated that he would get in touch with Craig Tighe of Tighe Construction to correct the spillway board problem.
2. **Little Robin Dam - Dock Tethered to the Dam -** Dr. Lerner noted that he is aware of a situation at the Little Robin Dam and has attempted to find the person(s) who installed it. He indicated that he thought the new owners of the abutting property might have some information. Unfortunately, he further noted that he had been unable to discuss the matter with them, as no one appeared to be at home when he stopped by. Mr. Ronzio noted that whoever installed the dock did not get permission from the Conservation Commission, as this would have been placed on one of their their monthly agendas. He noted that the district could turn the matter over to the Conservation Commission if the District is unable to find the owner before the pond freezes. Dr. Lerner stated that he would again attempt to speak with the adjacent lot owner. He also indicated that he would further investigate the matter and if necessary draft a letter to the individual responsible advising them that the dock would have to be removed immediately. As had been authorized by vote of the committee at the September meeting.
3. **Emergency Action Plan** - Dr. Lerner stated that the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) has been finalized. He stated that he would have Tighe & Bond forwarded the document to the Becket Emergency Management Director for his review and signature and then send it to the Office of Dam Safety.
4. **Lake Management -**
5. **SOLitude Report –** Dr. Lerner stated that he was informed that the year-end lake management report would be ready for the November meeting.
6. **Beach and Water Testing Report –** Dr. Lerner noted that beach water culminated for the 2017 swim season this past Labor Day and testing would resume prior to Memorial Day next year.
7. **Ecosystems Consulting Services -** Dr. Lerner advises that there is nothing new to report.
8. **Beach and Boat Management**
9. **Beach and Dam Mowing and Fall Clean up -** Mr. Ronzio noted that although it was previously reported that the contractor had finished mowing for the season and had done a remarkably fine job though there were some areas that needed additional attention. In particular he noted areas along the embankment at Little Robin dam that needed to be weed-wacked to prevent woody growth within 15 feet of the toe. Additionally, the silt-sox in that area, which had been emplaced to prevent erosion into the ditch channel, now needed to be removed, as it was no longer needed and wasn’t disintegrating as expected. Mr. Rosenthal requested that he needed clarification for the contractor. Dr. Lerner stated that he would set up a field trip to the particular areas so Mr. Rosenthal could see the areas in question first hand so that he could identify the problem to the contractor. The committee agreed.
10. **Beach -Sand Rejuvenation - Permit set to Expire in 2018 -** Dr. Lerner noted that the district permit is set to expire next spring. He further states that it may be a good idea to have some sand brought in now to prevent any issues with the Conservation Commission. Ms. Fishell stated that it might be better to delay the delivery of sand to Arrow Beach this fall as Lancelot Dam restoration work will likely commence in the spring. Mr. Ronzio stated that the money for this project was authorized at the September meeting, but the committee could modify their decision as needed.
11. **Sherwood Drive Stockpile Area/Woodchips –** Mr. Ronzio stated that the contractor was ready to move the material over the embankment to accommodate additional deliveries.
12. **Beach Signage - Replacement & Installation - Dr**. Lerner noted that he would check out locations for new beach signage placement. He stated that the sign should be in place prior to beginning of next summer’s swim season. Dr. Lerner again asked the committee to think about implementing a car sticker policy to go into effect next spring. He noted that Becket as well as other communities currently have such policies to keep non-residents from entering and using the beaches and lakes under their control.
13. **Beach Gates/Fences** -Mr. Ronzio addressed the status of the wooden post and rail fence at Lancelot Beach on Maid Marian Lane and reminded the committee about what the conservation commission had made clear during a previous site visit to the area. Committee members briefly discussed the repair but differed in making a decision at this time.
14. **Property Acquisitions/Donations - Basile, Map 216 Lot 61 -** Dr. Lerner updated the committee on the status of the Basile property on Brandons Way. He indicated that a small amount of money $46.71 was due to the town due to a change in the interpretation of the statute regarding donations. Prudential Committee members discussed paying the taxes due. Ms. Fishell made a motion authorizing the District to pay the taxes due in the amount due, Ms. Cowell seconded; Unanimous approval. Once the transfer is complete the committee authorized that letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Basile’s family as soon as possible.
15. **Website & Reporting Monthly Activity** - Ms. Cowell presented her monthly report. She stated that the average number of visitors looking on the website during the month remains steady. She highlighted some of the data, which showed how popular the district is with individuals in China and Russia.
16. **Opt-Out Requests -** Mr. Ronzio stated that he has not received any new request.
17. **Any Other Business to come before the Committee –** Ms. Fishell stated that she would be leaving for Florida on November 2, 2017 for several months. Dr. Lerner thanked for informing the committee.

Mr. Ronzio presented a credit application from Lane Inc. in Lenoxdale, which would make the purchase of material from that site easier. He stated it would be like the arrangement that the district has with other area suppliers. Committee members briefly discussed and Ms. Cowell made a motion authorizing that would Dr. Lerner as the Chief Procurement Officer to sign the credit application on behalf of the district, Ms. Fishell seconded; Unanimous approval.

1. Dr. Lerner stated that nationwide, dams are no longer being insured because they are such a large liability. Dr. Lerner explained that at this point it would cost the District an additional $40,000 in revenue to be able to afford even limited insurance. Committee members discussed the different options to get the word out and to educate proprietors on the costs vs. risks involved. Ms. Fishell made a motion to forego dam insurance this year and to begin planning for next year, Mr. Guerri seconded; Unanimous Approval.
2. **Public Input- None**.
3. **Review Correspondence -** Mr. Ronzio presented all correspondence received. He also stated that the district received three (3) checks from the Town treasurer for property that had been redeemed and placed back on the tax roles. He stated that the check had been deposited into the district bank account at Lee Bank.
4. **Warrants #4 FY2018 -** Dr. Lerner presented the warrant as prepared. Ms. Cowell made a motion to approve the warrant as presented, Ms. Fishell seconded; the warrant was approved unanimously. Mr. Ronzio reviewed the district’s bank statement and financials, bringing the committee up to date on all current expenditures.
5. **Continuance –** Ms. Cowell made a motion to continue the meeting to a date time certain that being 12:00 Noon this day October 14,2017, Mr. Guerri seconded. Unanimously approved. The meeting is adjourned at 11:52 AM.

**12:00 PM- Tax Classification Public Hearing**

1. Prudential Committee Members Present: Howard G. Lerner (Chair), Vernice Cowell, Nancy Fishell, Dennis Guerri.
2. Also present: Robert T. Ronzio (Clerk-Treasurer).
3. Dr. Lerner opens the meeting at 12:00 Noon. Mr. Ronzio read aloud the Public Notice that had been published in the Berkshire Eagle.
4. Mr. Ronzio reviewed the four different tax classifications authorized by the tax statutes that could be implemented within the district. He provided a brief explanation for each property class and how these classifications would affect the ratepayers. Ms. Fishell made a motion to use a single class residential tax rate for all properties within the district, Ms. Cowell seconded. Further discussion ensued - Prudential Committee members discussed properties that are being used as businesses to include the newly rising popularity of AirBnBs. Once this discussion ended Dr. Lerner called for a vote to use a single tax rate system. The results were unanimous approval.
5. **Adjournment –** Ms. Fishell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Cowell seconded. Unanimously approved. The meeting is adjourned at 12:08 PM.

**Schedule:** Next meeting Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 10 :00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,