Sherwood Forest Lake District

Prudential Committee Meeting

Date Saturday, February 16, 2019

Time: 11:00 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), Vernice D. Cowell, Joan Goldberg, Peter Giano, and William F. Maier and, Clerk/Treasurer Robert T. Ronzio.

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

Public Present: Gil Beaudoin, Collen and Shaun Cahill

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

**Introduction** - Dr. Lerner opened the meeting with a call to order at 11:07 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. Taylor 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.

1. **Prudential Committee to review minutes of previous meetings-** Dr. Lerner stated that the minutes will be reviewed and approved at the end of the meeting as time allows.
2. **Dam Management –**
3. **Lancelot Lake Engineering Update-** Dr. Lerner stated that working with the DEP on the Lancelot Lake Dam project has been very complicated and slow moving. However, he noted that the district finally obtained DEP approval to move forward with the project when the DEP issued a Superseding Order of Conditions. He briefed the committee regarding the voluminous correspondence that was generated between Tight and Bond, Cain Hibbard & Meyers PC, and the MA DCR’s Office of Dam Safety in response to the DEP Environmental Analyst’s unprecedented demands. Dr. Lerner explained that the District still couldn’t move forward with this project until all of the remaining DEP’s requirements are satisfied. He noted that remaining requirements couldn’t be satisfied as long as there is snow and ice cover in and around Lancelot Lake. Lastly, he stated the district’s grant application might not be favorably considered until every requirement is finalized. Mr. Ronzio added that he had sent Steve Sroka very recent pictures of Lancelot Lake showing the snow and ice.
4. Dr. Lerner stated that there are three proposals from Tighe and Bond that need to be discussed and voted upon. The first proposal amends the existing contract for the DEP Appeal Work, the second is for the recurring Phase I inspection reports for Big and Little Robin dams and the third is for Emergency Action Plan.
5. **Dam Design and Permitting Contract Amendment #4**: Dr. Lerner noted earlier that the MassDEP Order of Conditions appeal is practically complete, but the superseding order changes the parameter for the Lancelot Dam Design so additional funds are needed. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve an amendment to the permitting contract in the amount of $12666.50, Ms. Cowell seconded. Prudential Committee members briefly discuss. The motion is unanimously approved and Dr. Lerner signed the contract.
6. **Phase I Inspection:** Dr. Lerner briefly explained the requirement and the cost associated with this inspection. It is for $7,000.00. He noted that this is a periodic expense that needs to be done every five years. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Phase I inspection, Ms. Cowell seconded; Unanimous Approval. The next Inspection after this one is completed will be due in the year 2024.
7. **The Emergency Action:** Plan: Dr. Lerner stated that the Office of Dam Safety (ODS) has reviewed the status of Big and Little Robin dams. Big Robin (MA00206) and Little Robin (01054) Dams are now considered to be significant hazard dam and as such are required to have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) on file. Dr. Lerner noted that the cost of the Plan is $10,000.00. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the development of an EAP as required by regulation, Mr. Maier seconded; Unanimous Approval.
8. **Lancelot Dam - 94 Sir Galahad Drive Demolition -** Dr. Lerner stated that the demolition contractor, White Wolf Trucking and Excavation, has removed the building and structures. He further stated that the well contractor, Meyers Well Drilling, has decommissioned the well. Dr. Lerner noted that the Building Inspector, Board of Health and Conservation Commission have inspected the site and are satisfied. Mr. Ronzio provided some additional background information for the public that is present so that they have a better understanding of the project and why the district needed to remove the abandoned structure. Mr. Ronzio noted that the town’s code enforcer had sent the district a letter regarding the accelerating deterioration and the attractive nuisance it had become. Committee members noted the very real liability that this structure had created in the neighborhood.
9. **Lancelot Lake Maid Marion Ln Property Acquisition Update -** Mr. Ronzio presented the latest property boundary map that has been prepared by Hill Engineering showing the location of the new boundary pins. He explained that Attorney Goodman has been working with the Houle’s attorney and both sides were in final agreement. Dr. Lerner informed everyone that he met with Attorney Goodman and signed off on the deed and noted it should be recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds within a few days.
10. **Big/Little Robin Low Level Outlets - Annual Valve Inspection** - Dr. Lerner stated that he, Mr. Ronzio and Mr. Rosenthal located and exercised the low-level outlet at Big Robin. The valve functioned properly and water flowed through the discharge pipe for several minutes until it was closed. Dr. Lerner noted that Little Robin manhole cover was removed but the water level inside was above the valve so it will be done in the spring in conjunction with spillway stop log project.
11. **Little Robin Woody Vegetation Removal (Spring 2019)** - Dr. Lerner stated that this would be done in the spring before the vegetation leafs out. He indicated that Mr. Rosenthal would inform Gary O’Brien Property services about getting this done before mowing season.
12. **Little Robin Dam Spillway Stop Logs -** Dr. Lerner stated that he has coordinated with Craig Tighe to get this completed this spring.
13. **Lake Management - Mr**. Maier stated that he has received the most recent lake surveys completed by Solitude. He noted that based on the date the Lake Management budget for 2020 would come in at approximately $22,000, which is $4000 less than last year.
14. **Big Robin Dam Flow Routing System –** Mr. Maier confirmed that he has coordinated with Ecosystem Consulting Service to perform routine maintenance on the HD flow routing system at the Big Robin Dam and it would cost about $500 less than last year. This system has a substantial influence over water quality and habitat suitability in Big Robin Lake as it flushes plant nutrients from the deepest parts of the lake.
15. **Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing –** Mr. Maier stated that beach water testing this year would cost $4,500.00 dollars and would commence a week before Memorial Day.
16. **SOLitude Spring Lake Survey Schedule –** Mr. Maier stated that SOLitude would commence its survey and treatment program in June.
17. **Beach and Boat Management**
18. **Beach and Dam Mowing (Silt-Sox Removal at Little Robin Dam/Fireside Ln) -** Prudential Committee members briefly discuss the adding this to the contract with Gary O’Brien Property Services**.**
19. **Beach Erosion – Evaluation Spring 2019 –** Dr. Lerner stated that Mr. Rosenthal would evaluate the condition of all of the beaches prior to the beginning of this year’s swim season.
20. **Woody Vegetation Removal Little Robin Dam & Fireside Beach -** Dr. Lerner states this would be done by Gary O’Brien Property Services, in conjunction with work added in 5. a. above.
21. **Beach & Dam Signage Plan (Spring) –** Mr. Giano presented two different types of signs that he has researched. One vendor quoted a price of $22.50 per sign and another vendors quote $13.00 per sign. Prudential Committee members discussed how many signs will be needed and where they would be placed. Mr. Ronzio stated that he had spoken with Mr. Beaudoin who stated he would get a quote for erecting the signboards on which the signs would be placed. The committee members discussed the parking of cars at the beaches and the different types of issues that may arise. Dr. Lerner asks Mr. Giano stated he would get together with Mr. Beaudoin to discuss the install costs and be prepared by the next meeting to have an exact proposal for the committee to review.
22. **Beach Fence Replacement at Lancelot Beach** – Mr. Ronzio addressed the status of the deteriorating wooden post and rail fence at Lancelot Beach on Maid Marian Lane.
23. **SFLD Vehicle/Guest Pass Registration** **Parking Sticker -** Dr. Lerner presented a proposed Vehicle/Guest Pass Registration Parking Stickerfor the committee to look at and review. He note/ that each of the stickers would have an assigned a number as well as the vehicles registration number. The Guest pass would show the proprietors Sherwood Forest address since various guests would use it from time to time. Mr. Ronzio explained that the numbering system would promote increased security and peace of mind for those utilizing the community’s private beaches. Prudential Committee members briefly discuss the details of the vehicle sticker. Mr. Taylor makes a motion to authorize Dr. Lerner to purchase the vehicle stickers in the amount of $697.40, Mr. Giano seconded; Unanimous Approval.
24. **Website & Reporting Monthly Activity**- Ms. Cowell presented her monthly report. She stated that there were a total of 64 visitors, 60 of which were first time users. She noted that she did not receive any correspondence through the website. Ms. Cowell reminded everyone that she is accepting new photos and encouraged everyone to get the word out and have friends and neighbors email new pictures to refresh the website.
25. **Opt-Out Requests - 7 Bowman’s Lane (Celine Godbout)-** Mr. Ronzio stated that the owner, Ms. Godbout has two (2) parcels of property but one tax bill He noted that he explained to her that she must opt-out of each of them. He further states that this matter will also need to be approved by the proprietors at the Annual District Meeting this June.
26. **Property Acquisitions/Donations –** 
    * + - 1. **Houle, Diane – 0 Maid Marion Lane -** Dr. Lerner confirmed that the parties are in the process of signing the paperwork to conclude the transaction.

* + - * 1. **Town of Becket 94 Sir Galahad Drive (former Tom Property) -**. Mr. Ronzio stated that demolition as previous discussed has been completed and the property has been restored.
        2. **Gordon Property - 0 Woodsmen’s Path –** Mr. Ronzio stated that proprietor had re-contacted Attorney Goodman to move forward with the donation since her children decided they had no interest in it.
        3. **Dubbrin Property - 0 Alan A Dale-** Mr. Ronzio stated that he sent Mr. Dubbrin a letter but had not yet heard back from him. Mr. Ronzio stated that he would send follow up letter.

1. **Any other Business to come before the Committee –** Dr. Lerner reminded everyone on the committee that they need to be current with the State Ethics/Conflict of Interest statute. Mr. Ronzio informed the committee about a recent violation in a Berkshire community where a fine was levied on a public official.
2. **Public Input-** Mr. Shaun Cahill asked the committee about what one needs to do about an abandoned paddleboat and a rowboat at Little Robin Beach. Dr. Lerner explained that the committee has worked with the Environmental Police on getting rid of the abandoned watercraft, but it is a lengthy process that requires research in finding the lawful owner. He stated that he would ask Mr. Rosenthal to investigate the matter this spring.
3. **Review Correspondence -** Mr. Ronzio presented all correspondence received. Correspondence is read and reviewed.
4. **Warrants #7 FY2019 -** Dr. Lerner presented the warrant as prepared. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the warrant as presented, Mr. Giano 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. **Adjournment –** Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Giano seconded. Unanimously approved. The meeting is adjourned at 12:38 PM.

**Schedule:** Next meeting Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM.