Sherwood Forest Lake District

Prudential Committee Meeting

Date Saturday, March 23, 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, and Peter Giano and, Clerk/Treasurer Robert T. Ronzio.

Committee Members absent: William F. Maier, Joan Goldberg, William J. Osborn III, and Nancy J. Fishell.

Public Present: 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 10:20 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 would 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 despite the fact that spring is here everything is on hold until the weather changes. Dr. Lerner explained that the District isn’t able to move forward with the project until all of the remaining DEP’s requirements are satisfied. He again noted that remaining requirements couldn’t be satisfied as long as there is snow and ice cover in and around Lancelot Lake. Mr. Ronzio added that he had sent current pictures of Lancelot Lake showing the ice cover pond.
4. **DEP Superseding Order of Conditions** - Dr. Lerner stated that Tighe & Bond is prepared to file the DEP’s Superseding Order of Condition at the Berkshire Registry of Deeds along with support documentation. Mr. Taylor asked if the district is done with the permitting process. Dr. Lerner indicated that is not the case, as Tighe & Bond has to send the DEP the reclamation proposal. Mr. Ronzio reports this is due April 5 but Tighe & Bond cannot comply because snow and ice on the pond. He further noted that Tighe & Bond is seeking an extension until May 1, 2019.
5. **Phase I Inspection** – Mr. Ronzio passed a bound copy of the Big and Little Robin Phase I inspection report prepared by Tighe & Bond. He stated that a copy has been sent to the Office of Dam Safety (ODS) and the district should receive a compliance letter shortly. Dr. Lerner reminded everyone that this is an ODS recurring requirement for the district that needs to be done every five year. He noted that this periodic expense is somewhat costly in the year it is due, but it doesn’t cost anything in the intervening four years. The next Inspection after this one is completed will be due in the year 2024.
6. **Lancelot Dam Construction Schedule** – Mr. Taylor asked when the district could begin the dam reconstruction project now that the ODS and DEP requirements have or are about to be satisfied. Mr. Lerner answer that the process would begin with a grant application submitted to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for funding under the Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program. Mr. Ronzio stated that the award was usually made sometime in the fall, either the end of September or the beginning of October. Mr. Lerner was hopeful that the project would be submitted on time will all the required supporting documentation. Mr. Taylor asked about other bonding options. Mr. Ronzio stated that last time the district sought funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). He continued that it was a long time consuming process that involved UniBank, which gave the district a short term low interest loan, a Boston Bonding Company, which reviewed the district’s financials and finally the USDA Rural Development agency which approved the federal government bond. Dr. Lerner noted that securing funding was needed before the district could consider advertising the project in the Central Register and that alone has its own lengthy time requirements. Dr. Lerner stated that if the stars line up just right the project might begin in the summer of 2020.
7. **Lancelot Lake Maid Marion Ln Property Acquisition Update -** Mr. Ronzio stated that the deed has been recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds and the emergency spillway Maid Marian Lane property belongs to the district. Additionally, a small portion of property on the corner of Maid Marian and Sir Galahad Lane was transferred to Ms. Houle as part of the agreement, which had been approved by the proprietors at the 2017 Annual District Meeting.
8. **Little Robin Low Level Outlet – Cover & Valve Stem Fabrication -** Dr. Lerner stated that he has coordinated with Craig Tighe to fabricate and install the framework for the valve stem extension. This needs to be done because the water level in the manhole makes access to the valve not just difficult but almost impossible unless the manhole is pumped dry.
9. **Little Robin Woody Vegetation Removal (Spring 2019)** - Dr. Lerner stated that there is nothing new to report as this would be done in the spring
10. **Little Robin Dam Spillway Stop Logs –** Ms. Cowell stated that Ms. Fitzsimmons wanted to know when this matter would be addressed. Dr. Lerner replied that the pond is currently ice covered making it impossible to due until it thaws. Dr. Lerner stated he has coordinated with Craig Tighe to get this completed this spring.
11. **Lake Management –**
12. **Aquatic Weed Control SOLitude/ Conservation Commission** **Hearing –** Dr. Lerner stated thatMr. Maier would not be at today’s meeting. Mr. Ronzio stated that Mr. Maier called him to let the district know that SOLidude would go before the Becket Conservation Commission this month. Mr. Maier indicated he was concerned about a $40.00 application fee thinking it may delay the hearing. Mr. Ronzio stated that the district was exempt from paying fees and he would get in touch with the new Conservation Agent and straight the matter out before the hearing.
13. **Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing –** Mr. Ronzio stated that beach water testing would commence a week before Memorial Day in May and run through September, Labor Day.
14. **Beach and Boat Management**
15. **Beach and Dam Mowing (Silt-Sox Removal at Little Robin Dam/Fireside Ln) -** Prudential Committee members table the discussion until next month.
16. **Beach Erosion – Evaluation Spring 2019 –** Dr. Lerner stated that Mr. Rosenthal is in the process of evaluating the condition of all of the beaches prior to determine is sand replenishment is needed.
17. **Woody Vegetation Removal Little Robin Dam & Fireside Beach -** Dr. Lerner states this would be done by Gary O’Brien Property Services.
18. **Beach & Dam Signage Plan (Spring) –** The committee decided to discuss the bulletin board on which the signed would be posted. Mr. Giano presented two different types that he has researched. Mr. Giano stated that he would speak with Mr. Beaudoin about constructing and erecting the signboards. The committee members decided that there was ample time to get proposals and quotes. Dr. Lerner asked Mr. Giano to 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.
19. **Beach Fence Replacement at Lancelot Beach** – Mr. Ronzio again addressed the status of the deteriorating wooden post and rail fence at Lancelot Beach on Maid Marian Lane.

**SFLD Vehicle/Guest Pass Registration** **Parking Sticker –** Mr. Ronzio presented a confidential memo regarding the proposed Vehicle/Guest Pass Registration Parking Stickerfor the committee to look at and review. He noted that both the SFLD and The SFRMD do not have explicit authority but The SFLD will likely be able to regulate parking in beach lots under their authority to “repair, reconstruct, replace and maintain . . .beaches. . .within Sherwood Forest . . .” *See* Section 3(a) of An Act Establishing the Sherwood Forest Lake District in the town of Beckett, 2010 Mass. Acts 107. The SFRMD will likely be able to regulate parking throughout Sherwood Forest under their authority to “repair and maintain. . . the streets or ways. . .” of the SFRMD. *See* Section 2(a) of An Act Establishing the Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District in the Town of Beckett, 1982 Mass. Acts 380. The SFLD and the SFRMD should work together to draft a joint parking permit policy to ensure a uniform approach to parking throughout Sherwood Forest. Attorney Goodman summarized by stating that in the interest of uniformity and clarity, the SFLD and the SFRMD have the option to adopt a joint policy requiring parking permits for proprietors and their guests throughout all of Sherwood Forest. M.G.L. c. 40, § 4A states that a governmental unit, including a district,[[1]](#footnote-1) can “enter into an agreement with another governmental unit to perform [joint] undertakings” if the agreement is authorized by a district prudential committee. Prudential Committee members briefly discuss the details of the joint policy and decide to vote at the April meeting to enter into a joint agreement. Dr. Lerner extended thanks to Attorney & Mr. Ronzio on behalf of the committee for all of the research to make this happen. Dr. Lerner stated that the actual sticker policy application would be discussed in detail. Lastly, Dr. Lerner stated that he would pick up the stickers later this month. Mr. Giano indicated that he would pick up the clear plastic hand tag holders for the Guest stickers. Mr. Taylor makes a motion to authorize Mr. Giano to purchase the one hundred (100) hang tag holders, Ms. Cowell seconded Unanimous Approved. A lost permit (Guest Sticker) replacement fee was discussed. Mr. Taylor makes a motion to authorize the district to charge a twenty (20) dollar replacement, Ms. Cowell seconded Unanimous Approved.

1. **Website & Reporting Monthly Activity**- Ms. Cowell presented her monthly report. She stated that there were a total of 63 visitors, of which were 61 were first time users and notably 7 from Chicago 4 from Springfield, one from Hawthorne Woods and one from Lagos. The visitors spent an average of 1 minute 14 seconds on the site She noted that she did not receive any correspondence through the website.
2. **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 and would send her a follow up letter. He further states that this matter will also need to be approved by the proprietors at the Annual District Meeting this June. Once the Opt-Out is approved, Ms. Godabout would have until June 28th to get it recorded at the Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds since June 30th falls on a Sunday.
3. **Property Acquisitions/Donations –** 
   * + - 1. **Houle, Diane – 0 Maid Marion Lane – Already Discussed** Dr. Lerner as previously discussed confirmed that the parties signed and recorded the deed and the transfer is complete.

* + - * 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 this is still a work in progress.
        3. **Dubbrin Property - 0 Alan A Dale -** Mr. Ronzio stated that the Dubbrin now belongs to the district. Mr. Ronzio stated that he would send out a thank you letter. The committee asked where the property is located. Mr. Ronzio stated it was across the street from Little Robin Lane.

1. **Any other Business to come before the Committee –** the committee discussed the district meeting calendar for the remained of the FY. The committee discussed the Annual Town Meeting date and the time needed.
2. **Public Input -** Mr. Shaun Cahill wanted to address the issue of the price for lost stickers. The committee decided to revisit the matter. Based on this input the committee decided on a graduated price increase for lost stickers as follows: the first replacement for a lost sticker would cost $25.00, the second would cost $50.00, and all subsequent sticker request would cost $100.00. Mr. Taylor made a motion to implement this policy in place of the one previous voted. Mr. Giano seconded. Mr. Lerner called for the vote Unanimous approval. Mr. Cahill commended the committee for its action.
3. **Review Correspondence -** Mr. Ronzio presented all correspondence received. Correspondence is read and reviewed. Most of the letters were requests for stickers.
4. **Warrants #8 FY2019 -** Dr. Lerner presented the warrant as prepared. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the warrant as presented, Ms. Cowell 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. Dr. Lerner noted that the Well Driller never sent the district an invoice and he would contact him.
5. **Adjournment –** Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cowell seconded. Unanimously approved. The meeting is adjourned at 12:38 PM.

**Schedule:** Next meeting Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

1. A “governmental unit” includes a district as defined in M.G.L. c. 40, §1A. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)