Sherwood Forest Lake District

Prudential Committee Meeting

Date Saturday, September 9, 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, William F. Maier, Dennis B. Guerri Stanley C. Taylor (Vice Chair), Nancy J. Fishell, and William J. Osborn III and, Clerk/Treasurer Robert T. Ronzio.

Committee Members absent: Joan M. Goldberg.

Public Present: Mr. & Mrs. Keener

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. 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 -** Dr. Lerner thanked Ms. Goldberg and Ms. Cowell for all of their help in putting together a great picnic that was well attended and a great time for all in attendance. Ms. Cowell added that the Sherwood Shoppe donated a nice cookie platter.
2. **Approval of August 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes –** Tabled**.**
3. **Dam Management –**
4. **Lancelot Lake Engineering Update-** Dr. Lerner stated that there is nothing new to report and that Tighe & Bond is still refining the plan. 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.
5. **Lancelot Lake Grant Application Filing-** Dr. Lerner noted that the grant application was completed and submitted on time. He stated that the announcement of the awards would take place sometime in October.
6. **Lancelot Lake Conservation Commission NOI Filing -** Dr. Lerner noted that Attorney Goodman has expertise in this matter and would be working on the plan with Tighe & Bond for the District.
7. **Lancelot Lake Property Acquisition -** Mr. Ronzio updated the committee stating that the District check was submitted and required disclosure documents were signed by Dr. Lerner. He stated that the District is waiting for the Town to review the documents. He noted that once this was complete the Town would send the deed to Attorney Goodman for her review before it was recorded at the 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 in 2014. He reported that the owner agreed to come back with a welder to fix the latch mechanism properly as he stood by his work.
2. **Little Robin Dam - Dock Tethered to the Dam -** Dr. Lerner noted that he was recently made aware of a situation at the Little Robin Dam. Apparently, someone reported that a dock has been installed on the dam. He stated that the dock would have to be removed for a variety of reasons. Moreover, he indicated that the District never authorized its installation nor was the matter brought before the conservation commission. Mr. Osborn made a motion that authorized the District to further investigate the matter and to draft a letter to the individual responsible advising them that the dock would have to be removed immediately. Mr. Maier seconded; Unanimous approval.
3. **Emergency Action Plan** - Dr. Lerner stated that the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) has been finalized and reviewed by Attorney Goodman. He stated that it is now ready to be forwarded to the Office of Dam Safety. Mr. Taylor made a motion that the District forward the completed EAP to the Office of Dam Safety, Ms. Fishell seconded; Unanimous approval.
4. **Lake Management -**
5. **SOLitude Report –** Mr. Maier stated that he prepared a budget synopsis, which he wished to share with the committee. He reviewed the document showing the actual expenditures. He noted that this resulted in a savings of $4,000.00. Mr. Maier thanked the committee for its input and advice, which made his decisions easier. Mr. Maier stated the Weed Harvester is ready to be put away for the season.
6. **Weed Harvester Rental** - Mr. Maier stated that the Yokum Pond Association approached him. He explained that they are interested in renting along with its operator next year, and that they are willing to pay whatever is necessary to do so. Committee members discuss the different issues to include costs, operations, insurance, liability, etc. Mr. Maier encouraged the committee to give this matter some serious thought as it could work out well for the Lake District financially. Committee members briefly discuss the pros and cons. Mr. Osborne made a motion to allow Mr. Maier to look further into the matter and explore the possibilities of the harvester being rented to different lake communities in the Town, Mr. Taylor seconded, Unanimous approval (Mr. Maier abstained.)
7. **Beach and Water Testing Report -** Mr. Maier noted that with the end of the summer swim season there would be no further water testing at the beaches within the District.
8. **Beach and Boat Management**
9. **Beach and Dam Mowing and Fall Clean up -** Dr. Lerner stated that the final mowing is being done and the beaches and dam look good as they have all season.
10. **Beach -Sand Rejuvenation - Permit set to Expire in 2018 -** Dr. Lerner stated that beach sand should be put down in either this fall or early next spring prior to the conservation commission permit which is due to expire in 2018. Ms. Cowell made a motion to spend up to $5000 on sand to be put on beaches before the first snowfall, Mr. Taylor seconded; Unanimous approval.
11. **Sherwood Drive Stockpile Area/Woodchips –** Mr. Ronzio stated that a contractor needs to be hired to push all the material back as it is really piling up and there will soon be no room left. Ms. Fishell made a motion authorizing up to $400 to be spent to move the material, etc. within the area discussed, Mr. Taylor seconded; Unanimous approval.
12. **Beach Signage - Replacement & Installation - Dr**. Lerner noted that he would be driving around checking out locations for new beach signage placement as well as speaking with the Animal Control Officer regarding the enforcement of the Board of Health’s policy regarding pets on public beaches. Dr. Lerner also 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 other towns and communities currently have such policies to keep non-residents from entering and using the beach areas under their control.
13. **Beach Bollards/Gates**-Mr. Ronzio explained the difference between bollards and gates vs. rocks to control access to some beaches. Committee members briefly discussed the pros and cons of each. No decision was reached at this time.
14. **Picnic Benches - Dr**. Lerner stated that the new picnic tables were here and every beach now has at least one picnic table while the larger beaches have two or three.
15. **Property Acquisitions/Donations - Firkey, Map 216 Lot 265 -** Dr. Lerner updated the committee on the Firkey lot on King Richard Drive. A letter thanking the Firkey family will be sent as soon as possible.
16. **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 showing how diverse it can be at times.
17. **Opt-Out Requests -** Mr. Ronzio indicated that he received one (1) new request. He indicated he would prepare the appropriate paperwork and send it to the proprietor. He reported that the District receives approximately one opt-out request per year. Prudential Committee members discussed the possible reasons why some individuals may choose to opt-out and what impact this might have on the budget. Mr. Ronzio noted that almost no vacant parcels appear on the opt-out list.
18. **Any Other Business to come before the Committee –** 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. Taylor seconded; Unanimous Approval.
19. **Public Input-** Mr. and Mrs. Keener approached the committee to discuss beaver issues on Lancelot Lake. Mr. Keener read a letter that he drafted, sharing his views on beaver. He indicated that many people around the lake want the beavers removed/killed. He pointed out all the positive attributes that beavers possess. He then presented a resolution/petition signed by 20 Lancelot Lake residents to “save the beavers” and let them exist in their natural environment without the threat of harm. Mrs. Keener also provided some options to those who are looking to protect their trees from the beavers. Several other commented on the trapping laws and methods used to protect woody vegetation on private property.
20. **Review Correspondence -** Mr. Ronzio presented all correspondence received.
21. **Warrants #3 FY2017 -** Dr. Lerner presented the warrant as prepared. Mr. Osborn made a motion to approve the warrant as presented, Mr. Taylor 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.
22. **Adjournment –** Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Osborn seconded. Unanimously approved. The meeting is adjourned at 12:23 PM.

**Schedule:** Next meeting Saturday, October 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