

Becket Open Space Plan Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes for 7 June, 2022

Attending: Berkshire Regional Planning Committee: Lauren Gaherty

Committee Members: Al Blake (Planning Board), Cindy Delpapa (Community Preservation Committee, Wild & Scenic), Larisa Shpitalnik (Community Preservation Committee), Ken Smith, chair (Becket Land Trust)

Meeting called to order at 5:05 when quorum was met. Michael Lavery has resigned from the Committee due to too many commitments. The meeting was recorded.

*Meeting Minutes:*

Motion made to approve 8 March, 2022 minutes (Smith/Delpapa). MSV (in the affirmative: CD, LS, KS).

Motion made to approve 22 March, 2022 minutes (Smith/Shpitalnik). MSV (in the affirmative: CD, LS, KS).

Motion made to approve 12 April, 2022 minutes (Smith/Shpitalnik). MSV (in the affirmative: CD, LS, KS).

*Updates:*

Several Committee members have provided updates to select plan sections. L Gaherty asked for those Committee members who have not done so, to review the existing action plan and note those items that have been completed. The entire Committee should also review and consider which actions are valid and should be retained. Notations and comments should be inserted directly in the Google Document.

BRPC would like to meet with one or more members of the Planning Board to discuss the zoning action items and why they were not acted upon. It would be great to speak with a Planning Board member who was involved when the existing plan was developed. A Blake mentioned Ann Krawet was Chair in 2008 and may have some insights into the zoning recommendations and if the Planning Board was ever asked to act on the recommendations. He will ask her. It was noted some of the lake associations have undertaken work on culverts, dams and vegetation management.

L Gaherty posed the question of what properties are important to protect and which of these are vulnerable. Few areas in the town are permanently protected thus it is important to identify what is most precious- what would upset the community to lose- and work to save these assets. The Committee could start with those areas cited in the existing plan and update. L Shpitalnik asked if there should be integration with the Master Plan effort to reduce working at cross purposes. It was also noted the resignation of M Lavery from the Committee eliminates a direct connection to the Selectboard. A Blake explained the Master Plan update won't be started for at least a year. L Shpitalnik voiced frustration more than half the town's residents, second homeowners, are prohibited from many activities such as voting.

K Smith asked if a new exit from the Mass Pike should be a part of the plan since a new exit proposal seems to rise ever 10 years. Consensus was a new exit is not viable at this time and need not be a section of the plan. L Gaherty would like to tackle town assets next. The results of the online survey will be provided to the Committee soon. The results will provide insights into the priorities of the respondents. BRPC will also talk with the town DPW about their work and priorities.

L Gaherty asked if the Committee wished to meet monthly or bi-weekly. Consensus was bi-weekly with the next meeting on 21 June. A Blake asked about the timeline for completing the Plan and if another community meeting is planned. L Gaherty was not sure about the timeline. The town boards/commissions would have a chance to review a draft before it is presented in the public. Committee briefly discussed filling the position vacated by M Lavery's resignation. An invitation could be sent to the town boards again. Unlikely any of the selectboard members would have the time to participate.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting (Smith/Blake). MSV (in the affirmative: AB, CD, LS, KS). Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.