

**Becket Open Space & Recreation Plan Advisory Committee**  
**January 25, 2023 minutes**

Meeting opened at 5:05 pm via zoom technology only.

Present: Committee members: Larisa Shpitalnik, Ken Smith, Meredyth Babcock, Karen Karlberg, Al Blake, Jeff Wilkinson. Others: Lauren Gaherty, BRPC

**1. Meeting minutes** approvals, all by roll call vote:

- July 19, 2022 – Motion to approve by A. Blake, seconded by K. Smith; amended to read “meeting adjourned” at 6:18 PM; approved unanimously as amended.
- August 16, 2022 – Motion to approve by A. Blake, seconded by J. Wilkinson; amended to include K. Karlberg as attending meeting as citizen; approved as amended 5-1 (K. Karlberg abstained as she was not yet member of the Committee).
- October 31, 2022 – Motion to approve by K. Karlberg, seconded by K. Smith; amended to read “meeting adjourned” at 6:45 PM; approved as amended unanimously.
- November 14, 2022 – Motion to approve by A. Blake, seconded by K. Smith; amended to add “discussion with TAX assessor”. Ken: “developed plan” vs “undeveloped plan”. Discussion about rates related to conservation. Typo correction from Karen. Meredyth: “partnership building” to clarify to partnership within Becket and “Partnership with environmental organizations local and outside Becket”. Approved as amended by 5-1 (K. Karlberg abstained).

**2. Timeline** of next few months drafted by L. Gaherty, showing next steps to finalizing plan. Discussed and agreed. The draft plan is posted on Town Website at present. February is the month to go over the current plan; visit Becket boards remind all that draft plan is open and available for public comment.

M. Babcock proposed to have a week to review shared document and edit and/ add comments. L. Gaherty has permission to share a Google docx version so all committee members can edit and comment on the present draft.

Committee members volunteered to share the document review and confirm various boards and groups inclusion in action table. Lauren would like confirmation on boards’ willingness to be listed as responsible parties to move actions forward. A. Blake and J. Wilkinson discussed difficulty in obtaining and boards agendas and getting on agenda within February.

Zoning board on February 7th – A. Blake was not sure if ZBA would need to be specifically involved as they are not listed as a responsible party. Planning Board - Al Blake will share OSRP draft and action items list with them. Conservation committee – K. Karlberg will share OSRP draft and action items list with them. Select Board – J. Wilkinson will share OSRP draft and action items list.

Jacob’s Pillow board – K. Karlberg will get in touch with Al Jay deputy director. Grant application for trail work already in process. Theatre replacement: wetlands permit in process for another project and intend to submit a permit for trail improvements.

Parks and Rec. – no meeting set in near future. No one volunteered. A. Blake will look up their meeting agenda and share OSRP draft and action items list.

March – time to go public with flyers and information. In March the draft with action table will again be published for a second round of public review, with a proposal to submit the draft plan to the state for approval end of March.

M. Babcock requested that all of the maps be updated to reflect Hampshire and Hamden County to the same detail as Berkshire County. L. Gaherty will have BRPC update the maps.

**3. Annual Town Report submittal.** Latest version of draft letter to annual town report discussed and edits made. L. Gaherty will send the final letter directly to Becket Towns Administrative assistant for inclusion in the annual report.

**4. OSRP Actions.** L. Gaherty went over the Actions Table, incorporating notes from the forum. Recording of forum unavailable.

- MB: asked to include other plans to reflect OSRP, MVP, HMP and Biomap3 etc. Please change BioMap2 to Bio Map3 throughout the OSRP document.

JW: wordsmithed, Lakes and ponds “Umbrella” association action.

KK: Jacob’s Pillow – Add “restore, **expand trails** and maintain” MB: Important to keep the wording that addresses careful sustainable design. Jacob’s Pillow is exploring a variety of funding options, specifying Mass Trails grant.

LG: asked about filling out the priority column and finishing adding other organizations, boards to the Action Items responsibilities column.

Towns interest in educating landowners exploring, enhancement, protection and preservation: Added to possible collaborators Becket Land Trust & “Greenagers” Resource: “Berkshire Natural Resources Counsellor”, “Berkshire Environmental Action Team”.

Support private landowners and stakeholders on increasing public access – Becket Land trust – delete.

Bike racks responsible party determined to be P&R Committee and local volunteers.

**5. Dec. 5 Public Forum.** Discussion about the public forum and results of the meeting. Participation was low but substantive. Discussing some of the reasons this may have been true and how we increase the number of citizens who are willing to review the OSRP draft.

BRPC lost recording of forum due to not having downloaded the recording within 30 days time limit. This record keeping was exacerbated by the transition from Cara to L. Gaherty as the project lead. L. Gaherty asked others to piece together an online Zoom participant list. All committee members shared those they remembered were on the call Lauren will reach out to Cara at her new job to see if she has the Zoom attendees.

Reviewed the priorities on the action list voted on by the forum participants. Master plan second highest to receive votes. MB asks if the town planning board discussed applying to the MVP for funds to complete a master plan.

Next meeting is scheduled on February 8, at 5PM.

Motion by K. Smith, seconded by J. Wilkinson to adjourn; approved unanimously. Adjournment at 6:47 pm.