

**BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
1 FENN STREET, SUITE 201, PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01201  
TELEPHONE (413) 442-1521 · FAX (413) 442-1523  
[www.berkshireplanning.org](http://www.berkshireplanning.org)

JOHN P. HICKEY, Chair  
JAMES MULLEN, Vice-Chair  
SHEILA IRVIN, Clerk  
CHARLES P. OGDEN, Treasurer

NATHANIEL W. KARNS, A.I.C.P.  
Executive Director

**BERKSHIRE CONSERVATION COMMISSION GROUP**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**October 7, 2009, 7:00 PM**

**1) Welcome and introductions**

Attendees:

Terry Eucker, Berkshire Conservation Agent  
Sam Gossage, Egremont Conservation Commission  
Bill Tynan, Egremont Conservation Commission  
Mary Turek, Sandisfield Conservation Commission  
Mark Stinson, DEP Circuit Rider  
Harold Brotzman, Williamstown Conservation Commission  
Sarah LaValley, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Sarah welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2) Review of October 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notes**

Terry distributed the MOU between DEP and DEM regarding forestry exemptions to the WPA and the Forest Cutting Practices Act. Terry pointed out that DEP penalties are much larger than DCR fines.

**3) Member Issues / Discussion**

Member Issues:

Conservation Commissions were slow over the summer. Mark noted that Pittsfield, Lee and Great Barrington are still fairly busy.

**4) Training Topic: Property Development From an Applicant's Perspective**

*A Soup to nuts consideration of Property Development*

Terry provided a presentation and discussion about property development and permitting, noting that board members and commissioners are often focused only on their piece of the permitting puzzle, and seeing things from an applicant's perspective can be very helpful.

- Locate and learn about a property  
Terry provided an example property in Richmond.  
What does the site look like? (MassGIS, Google Maps)  
What is its sales/deed history? (masslandrecords.com)
- Learn about regulations  
Local wetlands regulations  
Zoning  
Building Permits

Fees

Homeowners associations, if applicable

A discussion was held about what boards and commissions can do to inform applicants of local rules and regulations. A good realtor or lawyer can sometimes provide local information, but this is not always the case. Availability of documents and forms at town hall is important, and developing an applicant's handbook can be very helpful.

Training Workshop materials are available at: [www.berkshireplanning.org/conservationagent/BCCG](http://www.berkshireplanning.org/conservationagent/BCCG)

#### **5) Other Training Events / Workshops**

Mark Stinson provided a recap of the October 1 workshop on "Guidance for Aquatic Plant Management in Lakes and Ponds"

- DEP and DCR have developed a GEIR and guidance document on eutrophication and aquatic plant management.
- Lake management can have unintended effects on lakes if not done properly
- Certain information is required for each lake management project, with some additional requirements for certain types of management techniques
- Conservation commissions must ensure that GEIR's are complete, and conditions are appropriate for the project. If all required information is complete, the permit must be issued.
- The group discussed chemical management and other techniques, including hand pulling, bentic barriers: a light blocking technique, drawdowns; effective at killing exposed roots, and dredging; which sometimes must be done to maintain open water bodies.
- The best place to start when approaching lake management is to determine where nutrients feeding aquatic plants are coming from by conducting a study.
- DEP's 604b and s319 grant programs can assist with assessment and implementation

#### **6) Next Meeting**

The Group agreed to meet again on November 7.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30