



TOWN OF PALMER

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY 1/15/2013 @ 7:00 PM

Members Present: Robert Ring, Donald Duffy, Dennis Cote, Angela Panaccione

Members Absent: Peter Izyk, Matt Trybus

Meeting Opens: 7:06 PM – Robert Ring (Chair)

7:06 PM Administrative Matters

Chair Report: There are two people possibly looking to intern for PCC this spring. The first is a local Eagle Scout interested in trail projects and the second is a UMASS student looking to conduct research.

Member Report (Don Duffy): Palmer Solar will not longer file with PCC. There was a discussion on a potential land easement for the “Indian Piece”. It seems now Palmer Solar is looking instead to sell the piece, to Three Rivers, for future well sites.

Agent Report: PCC welcomed their new Agent, Angela Panaccione. The commissioners and the Agent discussed roles and responsibilities, expectations and goals for the future. A project for the spring is to conduct an inventory of town owned lands and the potential for GPS mapping the trails at the Midura Conservation Land. An additional concern was the maintenance of the lands, including trash removal.

7:15 PM NOI DEP #256-0298: Mass DOT, Stormwater Improvements for I-90

Alex Murphy, Mass DOT, attendant tonight meeting with representative Allary Braitsch, VHB Inc., to present a proposal for improving the Stormwater management off I-90, by the Quaboag River. Mass DOT is proposing to replace the existing Stormwater conveyance swales and install a gravel wetland, adjacent to the Quaboag River. The work will consist of excavation, grading, filling, rip rap/stone stabilization, placement of top soil and reseeding. The project also requires work in the following resource areas: Bank, Land Under Water, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, Riverfront Area and the buffer zone.

Currently there is a problem with the infiltration at the site and the erosion from the slope is increasing. DOT plans to pull back the pavement in three separate areas, remove it and restore the exposed area with plantings. The total amount of impervious surfaces to be removed and replaced with vegetation will be 6,144 cubic feet. A new gravel wetland will be installed as a stormwater filter. This new addition will increase the water quality entering the Quaboag. The slop leading from I-90, down to the river, will also be stabilized and restored; there by decreasing the on site erosion. The project overall will improve the control of storm water, reduce erosion and improve water quality of runoff being discharged into the Quaboag River.

Erosion controls will be constructed according to the plans and PCC will be notified when they are installed for a pre-work site visit. If any changes to the current plan occur, Mass DOT will re-file. Additionally, if the access route requires using the trail by the river the applicant must re-file as well. Work is anticipated to begin in late spring/early summer and Mass DOT will give 72-hour notice before works begin. Additionally, when Mass DOT receives their 401 Water Quality Certification they will send a copy to PCC.

Motion made by Don Duffy to close the hearing
Motion seconded by Dennis Cote
No further discussion – All in Favor – Motion Carries

Motion made by Don Duffy to issue the Orders of Conditions
Motion seconded by Dennis Cote
No further discussion – All in Favor – Motion Carries

7:30 PM Lamothe Violation

Bob Ring updated the commission of the violation. Currently Mr. Lamothe is being fined \$100/day for refusing to file for a fence he constructed on his property. Bob spoke with the attorney and the violation will probably go to housing court.

7:45 PM Meeting Adjourned

Motion made by Don Duffy
Motion seconded by Dennis Cote
No further discussion – All in Favor – Motion Carries

Sincerely Submitted
Angela Panaccione, Agent