



# TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 – 6:30 PM  
LOCATION: Town Hall Meeting Room

4417 Main St Palmer. MA

Donald Blais, Chair  
Dorothy Lawrence, Vice  
Chair  
David Cotter  
Peter Izyk  
Nicholas Zeo  
Brenda Cole  
Lucas McDiarmid

Justin Enright, Agent

**Members Present:** Donald Blais

Peter Izyk

Nicholas Zeo

David Cotter

**Members Absent:** Lucas McDiarmid

**Also Present:** Erin Ruggiano, Donald Frydryk, Mark Pelissier, Heidi Mannarino

1. **Call to Order** 6:30 PM Chair Donald Blais

2. **Review Correspondence:**

a. Forest Cutting Plan- 277-1099 Mt. Dumplin.

Heidi Mannarino addressed the forest cutting plan update and commented on nearby solar field. A short general commentary session ensued amongst the commission.

No further discussion post commentary.

3. **Public Inquiries:**

4. **Approval of Minutes:** 8/15/2023

**Call for a motion by Donald Blais**

**David Cotter made the motion for approval.**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk.**

**Motion carries 4-0-0**

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No further Discussion

**5. Approval of Payables:**

**6. Signing of Documents (DOA, OOC, COC, Ext, Etc.):**

- EXTENSION: DEP #256-0351 Route 181 at Thorndike Rd. Replacement of existing twin culverts riverfront area, land under waterbodies and waterways, inland bank, bordering vegetated wetland and buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetland.

The members of the commission and the former agent state details regarding history of the project.

**Call for a motion by Donald Blais**

**Nicholas Zeo made a motion for approval.**

**Motion seconded by David Cotter.**

**Motion carries 4-0-0**

The extension was then signed by present members of the commission.

**7. Hearings:**

**a. 7:00pm: Notice of Intent—DEP #256-0372, 1063 Ware St.**

- Proposed construction of an accessory building within the 100ft. buffer zone and 50ft No-Disturb Zone to a bordering vegetated wetland.

Donald Frydryk outlines the project at 1063 Ware Street. Peter Izyk acknowledged the pre-disturbed land and how well maintained it is. States no concern. Heidi Mannarino asks about DEP comments concerning restoration efforts. A brief discussion ensues. Justin Enright (CA) follows up by asking about species involved with potential future plantings. A brief discussion ensues.

**Motion Close: 7:07PM**

**Motion by Peter Izyk**

**Motion seconded by David Cotter**

**Motion carries 4-0-0**

**Motion Approval: 7:08PM**

**Motion by Peter Izyk**

**Motion seconded by David Cotter**

**Motion carries 4-0-0**

Hearing closes. Brief post commentary ensues.

**8. Violations & Enforcement:**

**9. New/Old Business:**

- Meeting with a prospective commissioner.

Heidi Mannrino and Donald Blais introduce and give brief background on the prospective commissioner Elizabeth O'Connor.

**Motion called for recommendation**

**Motion made by Nick Zeo.**

**Motion seconded by David Cotter.**

**Motion Carries 4-0-0**

- Update: LAND grant.

Heidi Mannarino discusses acquired land grant and target project deadline window (June 1- June30, 2024). Preferred June 1<sup>st</sup> for parking lot and signage. David Cotter inquires about parking area. Heidi Mannarino states that it should be kept rustic.

- Update: Iberia Foods

Heidi Mannarino gives background and photos of past violation. She continues to state progress and plans for continued work.

Donald Blais inquired about another occurrence in the nearby area (culvert). A brief dialog ensues.

David Cotter raises question about the biodegradable nature of berm/filter sock for the project. Heidi Mannarino fields question and opens potential for follow up questions or visit to site.

**10. Chair, Member, Committee & Agent Reports:**

- a. Agent Report

Donald Blais (Chair) introduces the new Conservation Agent Justin Enright. Justin gives a brief background and hopes to utilize skills to help the community.

**11. Set Next Meeting Date:** The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 PM in the Town Administration Building Meeting Room located at 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

**12. Adjourn**

**The items listed which may be discussed at the meeting are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. This meeting will be televised live on Channel 15 and taped and shown on M-Pact.**

Sincerely Submitted,

Justin Enright

Conservation Agent

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