



# TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 – 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

**Members Present:** Donald Blais, Jr.  
Peter Izyk  
Lucas McDiarmid  
Nick Zeo

**Members Absent:** Dorothy Lawrence  
Dave Cotter  
Brenda Cole

1. **Call to Order:** 6:30 PM – Donald Blais, Jr. (Chair)

2. **Chair, Member & Committee Reports:**

**Chair Update:** The Chairman stated that the Agent, Erin Ruggiano has resigned. Town Planner, Linda Leduc, was present and explained that the ad is running for a new Agent, and for the meantime the Planning Department is administratively overseeing the Conservation Department. She then stated the two grants (181 culvert and 604b water assessment for Forest Lake grants) will be moving out of Conservation Department. The 181 Grant will be with Matt Morse in Wastewater and the 604B will be under the Planning Department.

**Member Update:** Lucas McDiarmid stated that he spoke with Chief Turner at Three Rivers Fire and he learned that none of the public safety chiefs have been briefed of the conservation lands, which is an issue should they have to respond to an emergency. He then suggested hosting tours of the lands for the members of public safety.

**Committee Report:** Nick Zeo, a Masterplan Implementation Committee member, stated they are in the process of meeting with department heads. They also met with the historical commission. They are working on going through a review of consolidating the water departments.

**Review Mail/Phone Messages:**

a. **Forest Cutting Plan:**

There was discussion regarding how the actual oversight of forest cutting plans is done under DCR, and the PCC has little involvement. Nick Zeo asked if there was a way to convey the message to residents that as far as approving or denying there is no jurisdiction.

The submitted forest cutting plan was looked over.

b. **Site Visits:** 29 Fieldstone Drive/2009-2019 High St Three Rivers

There was general discussion on revisiting the idea of doing site visits during the winter months. Linda Leduc brought up the concern that holding up site visits could cause a back up of work/documentation for the PCC.

It was then discussed that a desk review would be done to determine if a site visit would be necessary.

**c. MACC Dues Letter:**

There was discussion that it was already brought up and confirmed it was paid.

**3. Minutes 9/20/22, 11/1/22**

**A motion to table the minutes of 9/20/22 was made by Lucas McDiarmid.**

**Motion seconded by Nick Zeo.**

**Motion carries 4-0.**

**No further discussion.**

**A motion to table the minutes of 11/1/22 was made by Lucas McDiarmid.**

**Motion seconded by Nick Zeo.**

**Motion carries 4-0.**

**No further discussion.**

**New/Old Business:**

**Public Well Sign Off- 39 Bennett St:**

There was discussion that for public wells there needs to be a sign off from PCC. Will be revisited once the hearing is conducted.

**Public Hearings:**

**7:00pm: 4079 Pleasant St DEP# 256-0363**

Donald Frydryk of Sherman and Frydryk was present on behalf of the applicant. He stated the applicant is requesting to construct a single-family home with garage. He stated there is public water service. He said there will be a paved driveway. There are no natural heritage sites on the project location. A site visit was conducted.

An abutter, Michael Marciniec, stated his concerns with receiving an abutters notice with no date or time for a scheduled hearing. He stated that he spoke with the Agent and she had told him the application was still incomplete and the hearing wouldn't be scheduled until January or February, due to site visits not being done in the winter. He then had spoken to Linda Leduc, Town Planner the day of the hearing and learned through her that the hearing was on this agenda. He was upset that he received no notice of the posted date or time of the hearing. Brief discussion regarding notice regulations.

Linda Leduc then asked if there's permanent markers/plantings delineating the 50ft no disturb buffer so the future homeowners understands not to mow/disturb that area. There was discussion about planting native and beneficial species, such as blueberry bushes. It was stated that they would like to see plantings every 15ft. A revised plan showing planting locations was requested.

**A motion to close the public hearing at 7:26pm was made by Lucas McDiarmid, seconded by Nick Zeo.**

**Motion carries 4-0.**

**No further discussion.**

**A motion to approve the project as proposed with special conditions was made by Nick Zeo, seconded by Lucas McDiarmid.**

**Motion carries 4-0.**

**No further discussion.**

**a. 7:30pm: 39 Bennett St (Camp Ramah) DEP# 256-0364**

The Chairman opened the public hearing at 7:31pm. Due to a lack of quorum, the hearing will be continued.

**A motion to continue the public hearing to 1/17/23 at 6:45pm was made by Lucas McDiarmid, seconded by Nick Zeo.**

**Motion carries 4-0.**

**No further discussion.**

**4. Signing of Documents:**

**a. COC- DEP#256-0353 New England Power Transmission Line**

**A motion to release the order was made by Nick Zeo, seconded by Peter Izyk.**

**Motion carries 4-0.**

**No further discussion.**

**b. COC- DEP#256-0360 Forest Lake Public Boating Access**

**A motion to release the order was made by Lucas McDiarmid, seconded by Nick Zeo.**

**Motion carries 4-0.**

**No further discussion.**

**5. Next Meeting Date: 1/17/202**

**Motion made by Lucas McDiarmid to adjourn at 7:43 PM**

**Motion seconded by Dorothy Lawrence.**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion Caries 4-0.**