



# TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Sarah Brodeur, Chair  
Donald Blais, Jr, Vice Chair  
Peter Izyk  
David Cotter

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## MEETING MINUTES

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 18, 2016 @ 7:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Sarah Brodeur (Co-Chair)  
Peter Izyk  
Donald Blais, Jr  
Angela Panaccione (Agent)

**Members Absent:** Tharyn Nein-Large  
Dave Cotter

**Also Present:** David Siegel, Peterson Rd  
Tony Wonseski, SVE Associates  
Trevor Hermance, New Britain CT

**Meeting Opens:** 7:00 PM – Sarah Brodeur (Chair)

### **7:00 PM Administrative Matters: Minute Approval – October 4, 2016**

**Motion made by Peter Izyk to approve the minutes from Tuesday October 4, 2016 as corrected**  
**Motion seconded by Donald Blais, Jr**  
**No further discussion – vote taken: 3-0-0**

### **7:05 PM Administrative Matters: Chair Discussion**

Tharyn Nein-Large has resigned from the Commission, but is still interested in serving as a non-voting associate member. Since he is currently serving as Co-Chair, the Commission discussed who would fill the space. Peter Izyk stated he is currently too busy with Scouts to serve in the position. Donald Blais, Jr expressed interest as serving as Vice Chair. Though he is the newest member of the Commission, Blais does have experience from his time serving on Palmer Town Council.

**Motion made by Peter Izyk to nominate Donald Blais, Jr as Vice Chair of the Palmer Conservation Commission.**

**Motion seconded by Sarah Brodeur**  
**No further discussion – vote taken: 3-0-0**

The Agent will email Blais information about the upcoming MACC Fall conference and the MACC Fundamentals training for Conservation Commissioners. The 8 unit program is a mix of in-class and webinar training sessions to familiarize new Commissioners to the WPA.

**7:10 PM      Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP #256-0320: Peterson Road – Siegel; Access Road**

A Notice of Intent submitted by SVE Associates c/o David & James Siegel for the change of use of an existing forestry access road to commercial access road for a renewable energy project. A section of the road crossed a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The location of the proposed project is Peterson Road/Mason Street Turnaround and is also known as: Map 15-7.

Sarah Brodeur opened the Public Hearing for the NOI. The applicants David & James Siegel were present, as well as their representative Tony Wonseski, of SVE Associates. No other public was present.

**Motion made by Peter Izyk to skip the reading of the Public Hearing Notice**

**Motion seconded by Donald Blais, Jr**

**No further discussion – vote taken: 3-0-0 – Motion Carries**

The Notice of Intent was required by the Commission as a condition of the Ratified Enforcement Order, issued September 20, 2016, to the property owners David & James Siegel.

The NOI is presented under the limited project provisions of 310 CMR 10.53(t): The construction of a new access roadway, or the improvement, repair and/or replacement of an existing access roadway, needed to transport equipment to a renewable energy project site, where reasonable alternative means of access to an upland area is unavailable, provided that it is carried out in accordance with the following general conditions and any additional conditions deemed necessary by the issuing authority.

The Commission discussed the filing with the Applicant and his representative. Since it is an after the fact filing, there will not be much in terms of special conditions. The Agent will draft the findings of fact for the OOC and email it to Wonseski for review. The Commission will also conduct another site visit, with Dave Cotter present, before the next hearing. If any unforeseen issues arise or the Commission has any additional questions the Agent will email Wonseski.

**Motion made by Donald Blais, Jr to continue the Public Hearing for DEP #256-0320, until Tuesday November 1, 2015 at 7:00pm**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**No further discussion – vote taken: 3-0-0 – Motion Carries**

**7:20 PM      Administrative Matters: Other Projects, Monitoring, Enforcement and Violations**

1. Emergency Permit – Meadow Brook Sewer line repairs: Mark Stinson, MA DEP contacted the Commission about a sewer line rupture at Meadowbrook Glen Condominiums, off Mt Dumplin Road. The Conservation Agent conducted a site visit with the Board of Health Agent Josh Mathieu and DEP Environmental Engineer John Bourcier on Thursday October 6, 2016. At that site visit the Conservation Agent verbally authorized the emergency repairs since the main line break was within the RFA of Mt. Dumplin Brook, and within the BZ of its associated BVW. Site contractors were supposed to supply the Conservation Agent with a written request for an Emergency Permit via email; detailing work conducted to repair the sewer line. No email was ever received and the Agent did not formally issue and Emergency Permit due to lack of information.
2. Pre-Activity Visit Dep #256-0312 – I-90/Mass Pike Toll Plaza Demolition: The Agent conducted a pre-activity site visit with MassDOT representatives and the site contractor on Friday October 7, 2016. Erosion and sediment controls were installed according to the site plans, but the catch basins on site were not yet protected with controls. Also, the DEP file number sign was not

installed either. Contractors stated they would have it up before work began in the beginning of November.

3. Drainage Issue – Memory Lane, Brittany Lane: Howie Fife, new Palmer Resident, contacted the Commission about drainage issue on Memory Lane & Brittany Lane. Currently, the stormwater from the subdivision is draining onto his property and not to the infiltration basin at the end on Memory Lane. He request the Commission conduct a site visit and provide any assistance possible. The Agent met with Fife on site. It appeared, due to the elevation changes and the grading of the road, the stormwater was indeed being directed to a wooded area on between his property and his neighbors. One possibility may be the catch basins further up Memory Lane are in need of cleaning. The Agent will reach out to DPW, to inquire when the catch basins were last cleaned and request the maintenance activity be completed as soon as possible. If after the catch basins are cleaned, the Agent will reassess the area to determine if further mitigation is needed.
4. Complaint – 1237 Park Street: The Agent received a complaint about drainage issues on Park Street. Upon conducting a site visit, the Agent determined it was outside of Conservation Commission jurisdiction and directed the complaint to contact Planning Board.
5. New NOI – Lot 61 River Rd; MECO new pole installation: Representatives from Mass Electric Company (MECO) contacted the Commission about an upcoming filing in town. The project is for the installation of one new utility pole for residential use. The pole will be located in the Buffer-zone (BZ) and the Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF) of Forest Lake. Due to the minor BLSF disturbance, the applicant was inquiring whether an NOI was needed or not. The Agent stated she believe an RDA would be sufficient, due to the limited ground disturbance from the new pole but wanted to check with the Commission to be sure since under the Towns Wetlands Protection ordinance, any disturbance to a resource area automatically requires an NOI. The Commission concurred a RDA should be sufficient.
6. Culvert Assessments – Tomorrow with DER: The Agent & Chair Brodeur will be out with Carrie Banks, from DER tomorrow for the last day of the culvert assessments and training in town. The office will be closed for the day.
7. Fall Project – Baseline survey and boundary marking along Swift River Greenbelt: The Commission will begin boundary marking the Swift River Greenbelt this fall. As a recent acquisition by the Conservation Commission, and since it borders the Industrial Park this is a good area to ensure our boundaries are properly marked. The Agent will purchase more Boundary Markers from the Company that supplied Trail Markers. She will also reach out to volunteers interested in participating in the Boundary Marking.
8. Emerald Ash Borer Presentation: Tomorrow from 6pm-7pm at Library.
9. CPA Update: The last Community Informational Session on the CPA is scheduled for next Wednesday 10/26/2016, from 6pm-8pm at the Palmer Public Library Community Room.
10. Violation Update – Palmer Motorsports Park Septic System: The Agent spoke with Fred Ferguson (PMP), this afternoon. As of today no site stabilization or restoration has begun. Ferguson anticipates it will commence this week as equipment and loam has been brought on site for the finalization of the leach field. He will notify the Commission upon completion for a follow up inspection.

**11. Eagle Scout Project:** Peter Izyk spoke with Dave Cotter, who has been in contact with the interested Scout about conducting his Eagle Scout project on Conservation Land.

**Office Closed:** Wednesday October 19, 2016 & Wednesday October 26, 2016

**Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday November 1, 2016

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:45 PM

**Motion made by Donald Blais, Jr to adjourn at 7:45 PM**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**No further discussion – vote taken: 3-0-0 – Motion Carries**

Sincerely Submitted,  
Angela C Panaccione, Conservation Agent