



TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Land Management Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 15, 2016 – 4:00 PM

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

Agent: Angela Panaccione

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Members Present: Sarah Brodeur, Donald Blais, Jr, Dave Cotter, Peter Izyk, Angela Panaccione (Agent)

Members Absent: All Present

Also Present: None

Meeting Opens: 4:00 PM – Sarah Brodeur (Chair)

Member Reports: David Cotter reported on the Trail Reconstruction project he supervised for a local Eagle Scout. Trail work occurred on the Swift River Greenbelt Trail this past Saturday November 12, 2016. The Eagle scout moved rocks blocking a section of trail, and stabilized the area for safe passage. The project will provide the long lasting benefit of a safer and more stable trail bed in an area prone to erosion.

Review Mail/Phone Messages: None

Public Inquiries: None

New Business/Old Business

1. **Midura Conservation Land Expansion:** The overall goal for the Midura Area/Kings Brook Corridor is to secure an additional 500 acres to add to it, over the next five years. The objective is to protect Kings Brook in its entirety, from the headwaters above Rondeau Road to where it enters the Quaboag River off Boston Rd/MA-RT 67. Most of the headwaters area from Rondeau Road to Old Warren Road is currently protected by DFG as wildlife conservation area. The Commission owns a section south of Old Warren Road, until the Lizak property, the turnpike property and Kings Brook farm. The Commission will apply for a landscape partnership grant in 5 years and will seek to partner with Opacum Land Trust, DFG & DER. The other part of the plan is to upgrade the current culvert on Old Warren Road to meet the stream crossing standards and allow wildlife passage. Currently it is a significant barrier to wildlife migration and prohibits any acreage for acquisition north of the road due to the loss of connectivity of the habitat due to the crossing. Angela will contact Tim from DER to discuss upgrade to the culvert for wildlife passage. Additionally, the Commission will hold a BBQ for all abutters of Midura, on Saturday April 22, 2017 at 12pm, at the Midura Field to discuss the plans and see if any abutters are interested in either selling to the Commission or placing a CR on the property as part of the grant application.
2. **Swift River Boundary Marking:** This is on hold for the time being since none of the volunteers who expressed interest have been available for a work day.
3. **Burleigh Park Community Forest:** The process to designate an area as a Town Forest only requires a formal vote of the Town Council. The committee will work on preparing a request for the Town Council requesting the Town Forest Designation for the back of Burleigh Park.

4. Request to Amend Sale of Agricultural & Forestry Products Ordinance (Chapter 8, Article 1): No update, still waiting on Town Council Ordinance Subcommittee to schedule a meeting to review.
5. Contact/Hire Forester for Bacon Road Parcel: Sarah has reached out to Scott Gerrish about preparing a forest cutting plan for the Commission for the Bacon Road parcel. She will be lead contact on this. Gerrish requested additional information, such as the parcel id and any maps we have of the area.

Discuss Recreation Trails Grant: The currently proposed project for Palmer is an Accessible Trail that will provide access for people of all abilities to a peaceful forest experience with views of the Swift River. The grant funds requested for the project will include Trail Head construction of a parking area for handicapped vehicles & a kiosk, a ¼ mile ADA accessible loop trail (that can be developed more in the future as an “All Persons Trail”) with two resting/viewing areas along the trail with benches, and a terminus overlooking the River with benches and a handicapped accessible table.

Angela is currently working on the application to request SCA Assistance on the project. Those present discussed where SCA could camp while working. Two suggestions are: 1) Burleigh Park, or 2) Camp Stanica.

The budget is the hard part, so Angela will request assistance from Alice Davey and see if Alice can attend the next meeting.

Angela will also attend the Trail Grant Workshop Thursday December 8, 2016 in Worcester.

Identify Other Action Items to work on:

1. No Hunting Signs for Burleigh Park
2. A sign for Midura stating we allow hunting, so hikers should use caution/wear orange
3. New Dumping off First Street, between Cul-de-Sac and Bridge Street. There is a trail from a house off Thorndike Street that leads directly to the dumping area.
4. Send out a press release to the Journal about the new subcommittee and state we are seeking members and volunteers to join.

Set Next Meeting Date: Monday December 12, 2016 at 4:00 pm

Adjourn: 5:15pm