

TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 15th, 2020 – 6:30 PM

LOCATION: VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

Donald Blais, Chair
Dorothy Lawrence, Vice Chair
David Cotter
Peter Izyk
Nicholas Zeo
Brenda Cole
Mike Swiatek

Angela Panaccione, Agent
Sarah Fortune, Assistant

Members Present: Donald Blais, Jr.
Dorothy Lawrence
Peter Izyk
David Cotter
Nicholas Zeo
Mike Swiatek

Members Absent: Brenda Cole

Also Present: Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent
Sarah Fortune, Conservation Assistant

1. Call to Order: 6:31 PM – Donald Blais, Jr. (Chair)

a. Roll call attendance:

- i. **Donald Blais, Jr. – present**
- ii. **Dorothy Lawrence – present**
- iii. **Peter Izyk – present**
- iv. **David Cotter – present**
- v. **Nicholas Zeo – present**
- vi. **Brenda Cole – absent**
- vii. **Mike Swiatek – present**

2. Review Mail/Phone Messages

a. MECO Notification of Maintenance Activities: Old Warren Road

The PCC received notification from National Grid of utility pole maintenance activities on Old Warren Road. Utility pole 93 will be replaced and is located within the floodplain and within the buffer zone to Bank of an intermittent stream. Poles 81, 83 to 89, and 93 will also be replaced; Poles 81, and 83 to 89 are located within the upland. Utility pole maintenance activities are exempt under 310 CMR 10.02(2)(a)(2).

3. Approval of Minutes

a. 10/20/2020

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to approve the minutes from 10/20/2020 as amended

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk

No further discussion

Role call vote: Donald Blais, Jr. – aye; Dorothy Lawrence – aye; Peter Izyk – aye; David Cotter – aye; Nicholas Zeo – aye; Mike Swiatek – abstain

Motion Caries 5-0-1 (Mike Swiatek abstained)

- b. 11/17/2020

Motion made by Nick Zeo to approve the minutes from 11/17/2020 as amended

Motion seconded by Dave Cotter

No further discussion

Role call vote: Donald Blais, Jr. – aye; Dorothy Lawrence – aye; Peter Izyk – aye; David Cotter – aye; Nicholas Zeo – aye; Mike Swiatek – abstain

Motion Caries 5-0-1 (Mike Swiatek abstained)

4. Signing of Documents

- a. Conflict of Interest paperwork

The PCC received conflict of interest paperwork from the Town Clerk with various instructions as to complete the required ethics training. Conflict of Interest paperwork shall be submitted to the Town Clerk upon completion.

5. Requests for Certificates of Compliance

- a. DEP # 256-0280: Meadowbrook Green Condominiums

The Agent recommended that the PCC wait to issue a Certificate of Compliance until a site visit has been scheduled due to a Special Condition pertaining to the installation of boundary markers around one of the ponds on site.

6. Project Monitoring

- a. DEP # 256-0345: MA DOT Mongo Pond Dam Repairs

The Agent reported that the work to repair the Mongo Pond Dam commenced on 10/5/2020 and is almost complete. The outlet control structure has been installed, and the failed culvert has been filled to prevent further slope failure on the embankment to the MassPike/I-90. Sediment has been removed from the intermittent stream channel and the site has been restored to pre-construction grades, including the temporary access road that was constructed to serve as a staging area along the slope. One (1) stormwater outfall has been removed, and a second stormwater outfall has been repaired. The remainder of the work will commence in the spring of 2021, and will include final grading and re-seeding for stabilization.

7. Violations & Enforcement

- a. 19 Kelly Street

The Assistant did not have an update to report on the violations at 19 Kelly Street. No site visit has been scheduled at this time, nor has she heard from the Ware Conservation Commission on the status of enforcement at this time.

8. New/Old Business

- a. Recreational Trails Grant

The PCC will apply for a Recreational Trails Grant to expand the trail network at the Midura Conservation Area, with the goal of formalizing new trails, specifically on the Turnpike parcel. The Agent and Assistant recommend that the PCC GPS the trail network themselves and provide the GPS data to an outside consultant who can perform the GIS work necessary to create new trail maps for the expanded trail network. The grant application is due on 2/1/2021.

b. Master Plan Update

Nick Zeo reported the next Master Plan Update meeting will occur via Facebook Live on Thursday, 12/17/2020 and will focus on the topic of climate change. All PCC members who are interested to participate in the meeting are welcome to attend.

c. Amend MVP Grant

The Agent reported that the MVP Grant had to be amended because the town has been unable to meet the match requirement as stipulated in the grant contract; the match was going to consist of culvert assessments with local volunteers, but the COVID-19 pandemic has interfered with the ability to obtain volunteers to conduct the culvert assessments. The Agent asked Town Council to appropriate \$6,5000 to serve as a cash match, which they approved at the Town Council meeting on 12/14/2020.

9. Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings

- a. 7:06 PM Cont. Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP #256-0348 – Solitude, LLC: Meadowbrook Green Condominium Association (Map 18 Lot 47-1): The applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for the Ecological Restoration of Meadowbrook Green Condo Ponds through utilizing selective aquatic herbicide and algaecide treatments with USEPA/MA DAR registered herbicides and other BMPs to control growth of nuisance aquatic plant species and invasive plant species, (specifically white and yellow waterlily and purple loosestrife), improve fish habitat, improve water quality and slow pond eutrophication.

Donald Blais, Jr. re-opened the hearing at 7:06 PM. The applicant requested a continuance of the public hearing until 1/19/2021 so a site inspection can occur.

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to continue the public hearing for DEP # 256-0348 until 1/19/2021 at 7:00 PM

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk

No further discussion

Role call vote: Donald Blais, Jr. – aye; Dorothy Lawrence – aye; Peter Izyk – aye; David Cotter – aye;

Nicholas Zeo – aye; Mike Swiatek– aye

Vote was Unanimous – Motion Caries

- b. 7:07 PM Cont. Notice of Intent (NOI) – BWS Dumplin Brook, LLC: 3090 Palmer Street (Map 29 Lot 1): The applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent to see if the work associated with the installation of a large scale solar array is subject to the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Protection Ordinance.

Donald Blais, Jr. reopened the public hearing at 7:07 PM. The Agent reported that there are a lot of issues to work out as a result of obtaining an outside consultant to review the possible

altered wetland area, as identified by MassDEP; the peer reviewer did find an altered wetland in that area, and there area currently solar panels proposed in that area.

The applicant requested a continuance of the public hearing until 12/15/2020 to allow for revised site plans to be developed and for peer review field work to occur.

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to continue the public hearing for DEP # 256-0350 for the Notice of Intent submitted for large-scale solar development at 3090 Palmer Street to 1/19/2021 at 7:00 PM

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk

No further discussion

Nicholas Zeo – aye; Mike Swiatek– aye

Vote was Unanimous – Motion Caries

10. Set Next Meeting Date

- a. The next meeting of the PCC is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, January 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

11. Meeting Adjourned: 7:14 PM

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to adjourn at 7:14 PM

Motion was seconded by Dave Cotter

No further discussion

Role call vote: Donald Blais, Jr. – aye; Dorothy Lawrence – aye; Peter Izyk – aye; David Cotter – aye;

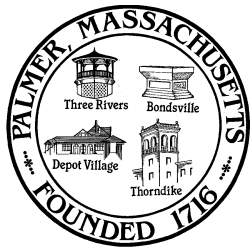
Nicholas Zeo – aye; Mike Swiatek– aye

Vote was Unanimous – Motion Caries

Sincerely Submitted,

Sarah A. Fortune

Palmer Conservation Assistant



TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Documents

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Chair
David Cotter
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Mike Swiatek

Angela Panaccione, Agent
Sarah Fortune, Assistant

The following is a list of documents used at the above-mentioned meeting, in addition to those included in the agenda packet which is part of the official record of the meeting:

Number	Description	Agenda Item	Notes
1.	Meeting Minutes: 10/20/2020	Approval of Minutes	Retained in 2020 minutes binder
2.	Meeting Minutes: 11/17/2020	Approval of Minutes	Retained in 2020 minutes binder
3.	Notice of Intent: Bluewave solar – 3090 Palmer Street	Schedule of Public Hearings & Meetings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0350
4.	Site plans: Bluewave solar – 3090 Palmer Street	Schedule of Public Hearings & Meetings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0350
5.	Stormwater Management Report: Bluewave solar – 3090 Palmer Street	Schedule of Public Hearings & Meetings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0350
6.	DEP file comments: Bluewave solar – 3090 Palmer Street	Schedule of Public Hearings & Meetings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0350
7.	Reponse to DEP file comments: Bluewave solar – 3090 Palmer Street	Schedule of Public Hearings & Meetings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0350
8.	Notice of Intent: Meadowbrook Green Condominium Association	Schedule of Public Hearings & Meetings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0348
9.	Site plans: Meadowbrook Green Condominium Association	Schedule of Public Hearings & Meetings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0348
10.	DEP file comments: Meadowbrook Green Condominium Association	Schedule of Public Hearings & Meetings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0348
11.	Request for COC: DEP # 256-0280 – Meadowbrook Green Condominium Association	Requests for Certificate of Compliance	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0280