



TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Donald Blais, Chair
David Cotter, Vice Chair
Peter Izyk
Nicholas Zeo
Brenda Cole

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 19th, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Angela Panaccione, Agent

Members Present: Donald Blais, Jr.
David Cotter
Nicholas Zeo
Brenda Cole

Members Absent: Peter Izyk

Also Present: No Public was Present

1. **Call to Order:** 7:00 PM – Donald Blais, Jr (Chair)

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

- a) **Quaboag Valley Coop:** The Agent & Dave Cotter conducted a site visit to view several areas of erosion at the Quaboag Valley Coop. There are several residents who have already lost property from the erosion on site, and several areas that are in danger of further eroding. The Agent went through all the files in the office (which go back to 2000) and was only able to locate two (2) emergency permits for the area. The Agent will do more research in the basement. The main part of the site visit went over tree cutting and bank stabilization. The co-op will hire a professional tree company to conduct the removal. The Agent informed them they will need a permit for the vegetation cutting. In regards to the bank and slope erosion the Agent recommended the use of either rip rap or a retaining wall to stabilize the banks. That work will need engineering and permitting as well. A major issue is the costs associated with fixing it as it is a very large area that needs to be stabilized. The Agent suggested two different potential funding sources including a Community block grant or possible a FEMA flood control grant. Either grant would need Town support, HUD, contact army corps about flood control. The Agent will ask her intern Patrick if he has any AMCO contacts in Sturbridge still, as he worked for them for a few years.
- b) **Off Leash Dog Regulations:** The Commission will schedule a public hearing to promulgate the off-leash dog regulations for Midura Conservation Land on Tuesday February 20, 2018 at 7pm. The Agent will email Nicholas & Brenda the proposed regulations.

3. **Review Mail/Phone Messages:**

- a) **Bondsville Dam Public Comment Period:** Bill Fay, President of the Belchertown Land Trust has submitted the paperwork to MA DEP for the Chapter 91 license for the repairs to the Upper Bondsville Dam. The public comment period will run from January 8, 2018 to February 5, 2018. Under the new Chapter 91 Regulations, BLT needs the Orders of Conditions from Palmer & Belchertown but both the Towns continued the public hearings to March under the assumption the Chapter 91 license was needed before we issued the Order of Conditions. The Commission discussed moving the hearing date to an earlier time (late January/early February). In order to move a date/time certain continued public hearing BL T would have to re-notify the abutters as well as run a new legal notice for the new hearing date. The Agent suggested this as the course of action, and stated BL T should also represent the project to the Commission to satisfy the Mullins Rule and because we have two (2) new Commissioners.

4. **Approval of Minutes: December 5th, 2017**

Motion made by Brenda Cole to approve the minutes from December 5th, 2017 as amended

Motion seconded by Nicholas Zeo

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

5. Certificates of Compliance (COC)

- a) DEP #256-0269 - Palmer Motorsports Park: Palmer Motorsports Park has requested the Commission take no action on the request for a COC today. Fred Ferguson has retained a new lawyer.

6. Violations & Enforcement

- a) 1237 Park Street - Stormwater Violation: Mr. Shah has confirmed receipt (email dated 12/12/2017) of the Commission's request to install the snout/bioskirt into the catch basin on site, and the authorized connection to the existing drywell.
- b) 96 Rondeau Street - SFH addition construction wetlands violation: On November 20, 2017 the Palmer Conservation Commission received a Site Inspection Request for a Building Permit for 96 Rondeau Street, Palmer MA (Map 37-21). The Conservation Agent Angela Panaccione conducted a site inspection on Tuesday November 28, 2017 and observed construction of the shed was already occurring. She also noted clearing and grubbing of the property had occurred without a permit. At that point she sent a cease and desist letter to the property owners and requested their attendance at tonight's meeting.

An additional site visit was conducted by the Commission on Tuesday December 5, 2017 at 10:00 am. Commissioners Peter Izyk, David Cotter, and Nicholas Zeo, as well as the Conservation Agent Angela Panaccione were present.

Heidi Messing, Emily Messing & Jared King were present at the December 5, 2017 hearing to discuss what was occurring on site. Heidi Messing provided copies of an old site plan from the previous owner, as well as a CAD drawing of the current property, proposed barn, and the location of the brook according to the Mass GIS overlay.

The property owner will hire a consultant, develop an existing conditions plan, a restoration plan for the damaged Bank, BVW and Stream, as well as file an NOI for the shed.

Motion made by Nicholas Zeo to Ratify the Enforcement Order Issued December 5, 2017

Motion seconded by David Cotter

No further discussion - 4-0-0 - Motion Carries

- c) 1201 Calkins Street - Dumping of commercial landscaping materials into Riverfront Area: The Commission conducted a site visit with property owners Elaine, Raymond & Raymond (Jr) Sabourin on Thursday 12/17/2017 at 9:00am. The Commission noted they were dumping yard waste (mostly grass and leaves) off the edge of their property but have stopped the practice once they received the letter. Raymond Sr stated he did not see the issue with it and though he was doing a good thing, since the yard waste was serving to stabilize the slope down to the River and stop any erosion occurring. Discuss with DPW compost key commercial, other towns do it. The Agent will work with DPW and get other town regulations to use as a model.

7. Project Monitoring

- a) DEP #256-0312 - MassDOT Toll Booth Removal: Currently there is no update for MA DOT. Robert Natario stated he had hoped to have a restoration plan for the Commission by today, but did not. The violation The Conservation Agent will conduct an inspection of the area the end of this week or next.
- b) DEP #256-0302 - Trail construction at Lavoliette under blanket OOC: Trail construction began at Lavoliette Field; but Pathfinder only completed two days of work before ending for the season. The trail bed was excavated down about 4"-6", for approximately a 1/2 mile. The Agent will inquire what is to happen next, as the exposed soils of the trail bed should not be left uncovered over the winter. If no further work is to commence until the Spring, the exposed soils should be stabilized. DPW there this week stabilizing site.

8. New/Old Business

- a) Travel Grant Award: The Agent received a \$500 Travel Grant to attend the Local Solutions: Eastern Regional Climate Preparedness Conference, on April 30 - May 2, 2018 at the Radisson Hotel Downtown, in Manchester, NH. The travel grant funds may be used for expenses related to the Local Solutions conference - registration,

lodging at the conference hotel (using the Radisson Hotel Downtown Manchester group rate), and travel (e.g., airfare, train fare, mileage, tolls, parking).

- b) Administration of 2018 MA Trails Grant: The Agent & Dave Cotter conducted a site visit Monday 12/18/2017 to mark out parking lot. The Agent will also print out the volunteer tracking hour sheets for Dave. The Commission reviewed the draft letter asking Palmer Town Council to borrow the \$50,000 for grant due to the two year time line for grant completion and because it is a reimbursement grant, so funds must be appropriated and spent before they are paid to the Town. The Commission will ask to be added to the Councils January agenda to discuss the request. The Agent will also reach out to Alice Davey in Community Development & John in Finance about the contract, setting up a bank account, etc.
- c) Culvert Assessments: Additional work days of Monday December 11 & 18, 2017 were cancelled due to weather. Possible Thursday afternoon, email members if going out.
- d) 604(b) Grant Application - Lake Thompson: The grant has not been officially announced yet but the Agent did find out the grant workshop will be held Wednesday January 24, 2017 in Worcester. The project will provide recommendations for reducing pollutant runoff into Lake Thompson based on a detailed analysis of land cover in watershed. Baseline water quality information, data gaps, and nonpoint source pollution issues will be identified in the Lake Thompson watershed. Dry and wet weather water quality sampling will be conducted in Lake Thompson watershed. A detailed assessment of the drainage area that contributes runoff for the one large storm water outfall in Lake Thompson will be conducted. Recommendations will be provided to improve stormwater management in the Lake Thompson watershed including opportunities for stormwater remediation and future grant funding.

Grantee: Palmer Conservation Commission

Location: Chicopee River Watershed

Description: This project will identify and assess nonpoint pollution sources to Lake Thompson and will assist watershed residents and Town officials in the development and implementation of a stormwater management project.

Goal: Improve water quality and restore recreational uses of Lake Thompson

Funding Request: \$ 50,000 - U.S. EPA

Matching funds: Not required, but offering additional cash or in-kind cost sharing as demonstration of local support may enhance proposals

The Project Will: Provide an assessment of nonpoint pollution sources and develop solutions, Provide recommendations to improve stormwater management in the Lake Thompson watershed, Identify opportunities for stormwater remediation and future grant funding and Develop a long-term watershed restoration plan for Lake Thompson, which is on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters - Category 3: No uses assessed

Specific Tasks Include

1. Conduct shoreline surveys of the lake to identify and GIS map major sources of sediment and nutrient inputs, as well as other potential pollution sources and monitoring locations
2. Conduct a detailed assessment of the drainage area that contributes sediment inputs and runoff to Lake Thompson; including assessment of unpaved roads
3. Conduct a bathymetric and sedimentation study of the Lake Bottom. Such study and report shall include both a chemical and a physical analysis of sediments.
4. Conduct various water quality and biological assessments of the Lake
5. Conduct a Detailed Wildlife Habitat Analysis of the Lake
6. Prepare specific recommendations for stormwater controls and Lake management measures
7. Develop preliminary Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development BMP design and cost estimates for nonpoint source control at 3 to 4 high priority locations identified through field analysis

8. Conduct a community outreach and education program targeted at waterfront property owners to assist willing participants with identify sediment sources and input routes to minimize sedimentation and prevent as much erosion as possible from their properties
 9. Work with residents and town officials to share results and develop better stormwater management practices
 10. Prepare Final Reports - Develop a Watershed Management Plan in accordance with the EPA's Nine Minimum Elements to Be Included in a Watershed Plan for Impaired Waters Funded Using Incremental Section 319 Funds
- e) FY 2019 Budget Request: The Commission discussed the budget Request. The Agent will email Nicholas & Brenda all the budget stuff from last year.

9. Upcoming Filings:

- a) ANRAD: 358 Shearer Street - Icehouse (Public Hearing Scheduled for January 2, 2018)
- b) RDA: 273 Breckenridge Street - Ground mounted solar (Public Hearing Scheduled for January 16, 2018)
- c) NOI: 115 Laurel Road - Septic System Replacement (Public Hearing Scheduled for January 16, 2018)
- d) NOI: 19 West Ware Road - Septic System Replacement (Public Hearing Scheduled for January 16, 2018)
- e) NOI: Forest Lake - Seasonal Cottage Development

10. Office Closed: 12/26/2017

11. Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday January 2nd 2018 @ 7:00pm

12. Meeting adjourned: 9:00 PM

Motion made by Nicholas Zeo to adjourn at 9:00 PM

Motion was seconded by David Cotter

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Sincerely Submitted,

Angela Panaccione
Palmer Conservation Commission Agent



TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Donald Blais, Chair
David Cotter, Vice Chair
Peter Izyk
Nicholas Zeo
Brenda Cole

LOCATION: Town Administrative Building Meeting Room
4417 Main Street, Palmer MA 01069

Angela Panaccione, Agent

Meeting Documents

Tuesday, December 19th, 2017 – 7:00 PM

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

#	Description	Agenda Item	Retained
2(b)	Off Leash Dog Regulations	Chair, Member & Committee Reports	Midura Conservation Land Binder
3(a)	Notice of Public Comment Period for Chapter 91 License	Review Mail/Phone Messages	DEP #256-0324
4	Meeting Minutes: 10/19/2017	Approval of Minutes	FY 18 Minutes Binder
65	Form 8A: Request for a Certificate of Compliance DEP #256-0269: Palmer Motorsports Park – 58 West Ware Rd	Certificates of Compliance	Palmer Motorsports Park File Box DEP #256-0269
6(b)	Enforcement Order: 96 Rondeau Road	Violations & Enforcement	96 Rondeau Road Violation Folder
7(a)	Site Inspection Reports DEP #256-0312: MassDOT Toll Booth Removal	Project Monitoring	DEP #256-0312 File Folder
7(b)	Site Inspection Reports DEP #256-0302: Trail construction at Lavoliette under blanket OOC	Project Monitoring	DEP #256-0302 File Folder
8(a)	Travel Grant Award	New/Old Business	Local Solutions Conference Folder
8(b)	2018 MA Trails Grant Contract Forms	New/Old Business	2018 MA Trails Grant File
8(e)	FY19 Budget Request Letter	New/Old Business	FY19 Budget Request Folder