



# TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Land Management Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday February 21, 2017 – 6:00 PM

Peter Izyk  
David Cotter  
Lisl Donaldson  
Howard Fife  
Sheri Jyringi  
Nancy Bisnette

Agent: Angela Panaccione

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**Members Present:** Sarah Brodeur, Dave Cotter, Peter Izyk, Howie Fife, Sheri Jyringi, Angela Panaccione  
(Agent)

**Members Absent:** Lisl Donaldson

**Also Present:** Nancy Bisnette

**Meeting Opens:** 6:09 PM – Sarah Brodeur (Chair)

**Member Reports:** New member Nancy Bisnette introduced herself and explained her interests in land management.

**Subcommittee Organization:** Now that the subcommittee has several new members, Conservation Commissioners Sarah Brodeur and Donald Blais will no longer serve on the subcommittee. Only Commissioners David Cotter and Peter Izyk are officially on the subcommittee. Sarah will still attend the meetings as Conservation Commission Chair and will be a non-voting member. Since no member stepped up to be Chair of the Subcommittee, there will be a rotating chair. Dave Cotter will Chair the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Review Mail/Phone Messages:** None

**Public Inquiries:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** January 10, 2017

**Motion made by Peter Izyk to approve the minutes from January 10, 2017**

**Motion seconded by Donald Blais, Jr**

**No further discussion – vote taken: 3-0-0 (Howard Fife & Sheri Jyringi abstains)**

**Approval of Minutes:** January 30, 2017

**Motion made by Peter Izyk to approve the minutes from January 30, 2017**

**Motion seconded by Donald Blais, Jr**

**No further discussion – vote taken: 5-0-0**

### **New Business/Old Business**

1. **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.
2. **Contact/Hire Forester for Bacon Road Parcel:** Howie will reach out to Scott Gerrish about preparing a forest cutting plan for the Commission for the Bacon Road parcel.

**Midura Conservation Land Expansion:** Angela printed information on abutting parcels targeted for acquisition and got an abutters list for the whole area from the Assessors. Additionally, the Commission will hold a BBQ for all abutters of Midura, on Saturday June 10, 2017 at 12pm (rain date Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>), 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. This date was changed from 4/22 in hope we would hear if we received the culvert replacement grant beforehand. If we are awarded the grant, we can extend the invite to people North of Old Warren Road. Angela made an invitation to mail to abutters.

1. Review Targeted Parcels for Acquisition – Goal 500 acres
2. Discuss Turnpike Parcel
3. Identify & Reach out to Potential Partners – DFG, Opacum

**“Big Night” at Palmer Motorsports Park:** Table till 3/7 meeting

**Dogs on Conservation Land:** The subcommittee discussed our rules and regulation regarding off leash dogs on Conservation Land. This was in response to a call received from a resident about letting their dog off leash in Midura (as many dogs are off leash there already, but the town’s leash law prohibits dogs from being off leash on town property. The subcommittee unanimously agreed that dogs have always been allowed off leash in Midura and the discontinued road/trails in the Shaw district. Angela recommended the subcommittee draft specific regulation regarding off leas dogs, and make a corresponding map of conservation areas that permit dogs to be off leash. The map and regulations can be mailed to registered dog owners through the Town Clerks office when owners get dog license. Angela will work on developing draft regulation to review at the next subcommittee meeting. If the subcommittee is to adopt the regulations, a public hearing would need to be scheduled and the Dog officer should also be consulted as well.

**Cornell Case Study:** A graduate research assistant in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University is researching the processes of developing and implementing large landscape conservation. One of the efforts she is examining is the Connecticut River Watershed Landscape Conservation Design (known as Connect the Connecticut) and would like to conduct an interview to help her understand the Palmer Conservation Commissions' conservation priorities and what types of information we consider when making planning and management decisions. The purpose of this interview would be to gain insight into (1) what types of tools and recommendations help inform our planning and management decisions, and (2) your interest in participating in natural resource conservation and management decisions related to large landscapes. Information derived from this study will help those involved in large-landscape conservation effectively represent the interests of local resource planners and administrators during decision-making processes. The interview is scheduled for Thursday March 9, 2017 at 9am.

**Palmer Monson Family Network Invite:** Perfect opportunity to conduct public education and outreach. Angela will schedule a date to read “Big Night for Salamanders” to kids.

**Woods Wisdom:** Thursday March 2nd, 2017 at 6:30pm

**Mass Land Conservation Conference:** Saturday March 25th, 2017 at Worcester Technical High School

**Identify Other Action Items to work on:** 1) Community Gardens & 2) Public Education and Outreach

**Set Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday March 7, 2017 at 4:30pm

**Adjourn:** 7:05pm

**Motion made by Peter Izyk to adjourn at 7:05 PM**

**Motion seconded by David Cotter**

**No further discussion – vote taken: 5-0-0 – Motion Carries**