



# TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 6:30 PM  
LOCATION: Town Hall Meeting Room  
4417 Main St Palmer, MA

Donald Blais, Chair  
David Cotter  
Peter Izyk  
Nicholas Zeo  
Lucas McDiarmid  
Elizabeth O'Connor

Justin Enright, Agent

**Members Present:** Donald Blais Jr.

Peter Izyk

Nicholas Zeo

David Cotter

Elizabeth O'Connor

**Members Absent:** Lucas McDiarmid

**Also Present:** Christina Pike, Erin Ruggiano, Sandra McConathy, Bryan Jyringi, Sheryl Jyringi

1. **Call to Order** 6:30PM

- Moment of Silence/Respect for former Commissioner Brenda Cole

Chairman Donald Blais speaks on memories of former Commissioner Brenda Cole.

Moment of silence /respect concludes.

2. **Review Correspondence:**

- Eversource Robotic In-Line Inspection

The agent gives background of project. A brief discussion ensues.

No Further Discussion.

3. **Public Inquiries:**

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes:

09/05/2023

**Motion by Nicholas Zeo to approve the minutes of 09/05/2023 as written.**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**Motion carries 4-0-1**

09/19/2023

**Motion by David Cotter to approve the minutes of 9/19/2023 as written.**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**Motion carries 4-0-1**

10/03/2023

**Motion by David Cotter to approve the minutes of 10/03/2023 as amended.**

**Motion seconded by Nicholas Zeo**

**Motion carries 4-0-1 (Amended)**

11/07/2023

**Motion by Nicholas Zeo to approve the minutes of 11/07/2023 as written.**

**Motion Seconded by Peter Izyk**

**Motion carries 4-0-1**

01/02/2024

**Motion by Peter Izyk to approve the minutes of 01/02/2024 as amended.**

**Motion seconded by David Cotter**

**Motion carries 4-0-1 (Amended)**

**5. Approval of Payables:**

**6. Signing of Documents (DOA, OOC, COC, Ext, Etc.):**

- **Ratification of Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) Emergency Certification Form: 92 Griffin Street Palmer, MA 01069**  
Removal of a fallen tree and pruning of a damaged tree which caused damage to a single-family home from within the 50ft No-Disturb zone.

The Agent gives background to the incident on 92 Griffin St. and issuance of an Emergency Certification Form. A brief discussion ensues.

**Motion to Ratify the Emergency Certification.**

**Motion by Peter Izyk**

**Motion Seconded by David Cotter**

**Motion carries 5-0-0**

No further discussion.

**7. Hearings: --**

**8. Violations & Enforcement:**

- 23 Elizabeth Street  
Violation: cease-and-desist issued for concern of potential filling/disturbance within proximity to the 100ft buffer zone of a mapped wetland without erosion controls and informing commission.
  - Site visit findings
  - Determining presence of violation
  - Schedule proceedings

The Agent gives background on the case and then discusses findings from the two site visits. A discussion ensues. The agent will contact the property owner and schedule and conduct a site visit to do more evaluation.

No further discussion.

**9. New/Old Business:**

- Welcoming New Commissioner Elizabeth O'Connor

The Chair introduces the new Commissioner Elizabeth O'Connor. Elizabeth gives a brief background. A brief discussion ensues.

No further discussion.

- Culvert collapse and catch basin on West Ware Street. (WPA ECF)

The Agent gives background on the collapsed culvert. A discussion ensues outlining some of the factors at play in the failing of the culvert on 20 West Ware Street. A discussion ensues.

Brian and Sheryl Jyringi (homeowners) add to discussion by highlighting the circumstances from their point of view. A discussion ensues. A question was asked by the homeowner as to ownership and responsibility of culvert. The Agent states the ownership based on information gathered from search and DPW Confirmation. The conversation continues. Nicholas Zeo brings up municipal vulnerability and input on the issue of stormwater. A discussion ensues. The agent speaks on the DEP recommendations for the remedy to ensure stream crossing standards. A discussion ensues. The Agent will follow up with the

homeowner and contractor to keep navigating towards a remedy for the situation. A brief discussion ensues.

No further discussion.

- Reorganization of Conservation Commission

The chair introduces an interested party to join the commission: Sandra McConathy. Sandra gives background for interest in commission. A brief discussion ensues.

**Motion to Recommend Sandra McConathy for Appointment by the Town Council**

**Motion by Nicholas Zeo**

**Motion seconded by David Cotter**

**Motion carries 5-0-0**

The commission initiates discussion on reorganizing the commission, mentioning the need for a new Vice Chair. A brief discussion ensues. The discussion will be set to continue for 2/20/24.

No further discussion.

- Meadowbrook Green OOC up for extension in March

The Agent addresses an upcoming extension request for project on the premises of the Meadowbrook Green Condominium complex. The agent notes that there were yearly reports missing as required by the OOC. A brief discussion ensues. The Agent will make contact to invite the applying party to attend the next meeting 2/20/24 for a hearing and track down needed documentation.

No further Discussion.

- DER grant opportunity

The Agent speaks on grant opportunity to help with specific culverts in that can be improved on a level for both infrastructure and for ecological benefit. The agent will update the commission on grant pursuits when more information is gathered.  
No further discussion.

- Reschedule March 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The meeting is rescheduled for Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.  
No Further Discussion.

**10. Chair, Member, Committee & Agent Reports**

Nicholas Zeo mentions Master Plan meeting set for Wednesday 2/7/24. A brief discussion ensues.

The Chair updates on the upcoming discussion for the Open Space Plan, which will be on 2/20/24. A brief discussion ensues.

David Cotter mentions open gate on River St. A brief discussion ensues. The agent will follow up and contact the appropriate property to see that the gate is closed.

No further discussion.

**11. Set Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

**12. Adjourn**

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion by Nicholas Zeo**

**Motion seconded by David Cotter**

**Motion carries 5-0-0**

**The items listed which may be discussed at the meeting are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. This meeting will be televised live on Channel 15 and taped and shown on M-Pact.**

Sincerely Submitted,

Justin Enright

Conservation Agent