



TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Donald Blais, Chair
Dorothy Lawrence, Vice Chair
David Cotter
Peter Izyk
Nicholas Zeo
Brenda Cole
Lucas McDiarmid

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 7th, 2023 – 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Town Hall Meeting Room
4417 Main St Palmer MA

Members Present: Donald Blais, Jr.
Peter Izyk
Dave Cotter
Nick Zeo
Lucas McDiarmid
Brenda Cole

Members Absent: Dorothy Lawrence

1. **Call to Order:** 6:30 PM – Donald Blais, Jr. (Chair)

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

The Chairman introduced the new Agent, Heidi Mannarino. She gave a brief overview of her background with Conservation.

Nick Zeo stated he received a complaint about River St/Bennett St area. The property owner/contractor is blowing leaves into the water. He stated he spoke with Linda Leduc about it as well and it will be brought up to the property owner.

He also said he was walking in Midura area, and he noticed a lot of trees that were blown down in a storm. He suggested Open Space and Trail Committees up and running again to help with cleanup. He spoke with Recreation Director, Andrew St. George about it as well, who expressed interest in helping clear the trails.

Donald stated he spoke with Andrew about attending the next PCC meeting to touch base with PCC.

It was also stated the town wide recycling will be held this Saturday 2/11/23.

3. **Minutes: 9/20/22 & 11/1/22**

Motion made by Lucas McDiarmid to table the minutes of 9/20/22 to the 2/21/23 meeting.

Motion seconded by Nick Zeo.

No further discussion.

Motion Caries 6-0.

Motion made by Peter Izyk to table the minutes of 11/1/22 to the 2/21/23 meeting.

Motion seconded by Dave Cotter.

No further discussion.

Motion Caries 6-0.

4. **New/Old business:**

a. **Well construction permit signoff, 2275 Palmer Rd**

The inspection is tomorrow at 2:00pm.

b. **NGRID- Notice of utility pole replacement activities**

The agent explained NGRID is replacing 10 poles, located on Fuller Road, Pine St and Bridge St.

c. Conflict of Interest Training:

The PCC was reminded to complete the Conflict-of-Interest training.

d. Midura Trail Mapping:

It was brought up again that Emergency responders need to be guided through the Town Trails so that in the event of an emergency they are familiar with the trail network. It was also stated that Andrew has been working on uploading trail information to Google Maps for folks to use while enjoying the trails. 27:17pm

5. Hearings:

a. 7:00 pm – Notice of Intent - Swift River Fishing Platform, First St Bondsville

The Chairman opened the hearing at 7:00 pm. Terry Smith of Mass Fish and Game, Office of Fishing and Boating Access introduced himself as the project lead. He stated the Swift River is highly trafficked with fisherman, which makes it the perfect location. He stated he spoke with Linda Leduc and worked with her in getting the property owner's permission to get access via their property for temporary construction access. Some of that access lies in the 200ft riverfront area. He stated that there are plenty of existing white pines in the location, so he plans on salvaging the trees for replanting purposes following construction.

He then stated the property owner (Adaptas) asked to have boulders or some sort of barrier be put in place to prevent people walking on the regrowth after construction, and to prevent it becoming a new footpath.

He stated the design will be ADA compliant, and have riprap surrounding the project during construction. He then went over the steps of construction.

He stated all the work is done on the bank, nothing in the waterway.

He then stated construction timeline will be around the 1st of April and he expects about a month to complete, and everything cleaned up and finalized by June.

Terry's colleague George Willis also of OFBA then went over the revisions made.

Terry Smith then stated that there is a large Pine Tree in close proximity to the project area that seems to be a risk due to it's age and health.

Dave Cotter brought up the fact that it's a cold-water fishery and the shade from the tree is important.

It was then stated that the fieldstone that has to be taken up will be utilized in the project.

Terry Smith stated he isn't touching any of the retaining walls that currently exist on site that have historically been where the Mills were located.

He then stated the excavation ramp going down to the site has been budgeted to include wooden handrails.

The chairman then read abutters comments from Belchertown's Agent, Sarah Fortune, regarding the project. Brief discussion ensued.

Nick Zeo stated that when the fishing platform is open to the public to send a notice to PCC for a grand opening.

Motion made by Lucas McDiarmid to close the public hearing at 7:45pm.

Motion seconded by Dave Cotter

No further discussion.

Motion Caries 6-0.

Motion made by Nick Zeo to issue an Order of Conditions for construction of an elevated fishing platform with an ADA accessible gravel pathway approach along the Swift River. First Street, Bondsville

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk.

No further discussion.

Motion Caries 6-0.

b. 7:30 pm – Notice of Intent - Recreational Track, Palmer High School

The chairman opened the hearing at 7:50pm. Presenting the project was Environmental Scientist, Emmett Lollis-Taylor of Tighe and Bond. He explained the project is a replacement of the track and fields facility. An

NOI has been prepared. He stated removal of the existing asphalt track surface, construction of a 6 lane 400m track. There will also be installation of synthetic turf field, a stormwater drainage system for the track, updated bleacher system and sports lighting system. There is no work proposed in any resource areas, there are only impacts on the buffer zone. Impacts proposed will be approximately 12,000 sqft of alterations in the buffer zone and 1,750sqft within the 50ft No Disturb Zone.

The existing retaining wall will be pushed back.

The project will be put out to bid shortly.

A motion made by Brenda Cole to close the public hearing at 8:03pm and issue an Order of Conditions for activities associated with the proposed construction of a new high school track, an improved stormwater drainage system and the replacement of the perimeter retaining walls, 4105 Main Street, Palmer MA.

Motion seconded by Lucas McDiarmid. No further discussion.

Motion Caries 6-0.

6. Adjourn:

Motion made by Lucas McDiarmid to adjourn at 8:11pm.

Motion seconded by Brenda Cole.

No further discussion.

Motion Caries 6-0

