

Minutes
of the
Palmer Conservation Commission
April 3, 2012

Present: Robert Ring, Peter Izyk, Donald Duffy, Matt Trybus, Dennis Cote, Glenn Colburn

Absent:

Guests: Planning Board Chair Michael Marcineic

7:00 54 French Drive, Zachary Cooper appeared before the Commission in response to the Enforcement Order and fine issued by the Commission. Mr. Cooper claimed he had not received the original EO that was hand delivered to Mr. Cooper's father on the site March 7th, 2012. In that EO, Zachary Cooper, as property owner, was ordered to cease and desist work in the buffer zone, and prepare a plan for restoration to be submitted 3/20/12 to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Cooper was cautioned that as the property owner he should be aware of the extent of the 100' Buffer Zone on his property, and that he was responsible for any violations of that Buffer Zone, lakeshore, and land under water. Mr. Cooper wishes to cooperate with the Commission and requested the fine be waived. Don Duffy made a motion to drop the fine if we receive a restoration plan and all issues with the Conservation Commission are resolved. Motion was seconded and approved.

Mr. Cooper will submit a restoration plan.

7:10 CKS Auto Sales, Rt. 20, Wilbraham Road. Wayne Doyle appeared before the Commission to address work that has been done in the Riverfront Resource Area. Mr. Doyle stated that he cleaned up trees that were damaged in the October snowstorm. Mr. Doyle stated that MassHighway dropped the damaged trees and he was just cleaning up. Glenn Colburn stated that during his site visit he observed a cleared area between the Quaboag River and the Auto Sales. Some sections have been bulldozed smooth, and all vegetation striped off. Other areas have been cleared of vegetation, but not bulldozed. In those less disturbed areas the vegetation is re-sprouting. The bulldozed area showed some signs of erosion cause by runoff from Rt. 20.

Bob requested Mr. Doyle to file a RDA with plans for restoration of the area. Plans should call for a seeding of conservation mix with mulch hay covering. If root systems of trees have not been destroyed by the bulldozer work, there should be good regeneration or red maples and other species. The commission will monitor for regeneration. If regeneration does not occur, we will ask for additional plantings for restoration. The Commission requested that Mr. Doyle start the seeding and mulching immediately.

7:22 19 New Hampshire Ave., Marc and Melissa Cardaropoli appeared before the commission. Don gave a brief description of the recent site visit and conditions. The commission would require a formal plan showing a permanent undisturbed buffer zone with markers. The Cardaropoli's will be working with Sherman & Frydryk to generate a plan to bring to the commission for approval of a revised work limit line.

Marc Cardaropoli asked what the commission would like for plantings. Some areas in question do not receive a lot of light, so the fruit trees suggested by Mr.

Cardaropoli may not thrive. Suggestions of Hemlocks, White pine, Red maples may be good choices. Highbush blueberries may be a good choice for shrubs. Multiflora rose may tend to overgrow other vegetation and should be carefully considered before additional plantings.

Don stated the commission is seeking a natural buffer zone with re-planting of native trees and shrubs.

Matt suggested some ideas to hold the steeper slopes. Pacasandra or similar ground cover could be used and would require little maintenance. Mountain Laurel, Forsythia, and ferns would be good choices for plantings along driveway and brook. The lower area around the shed should return to natural setting with some plantings of hemlocks, oaks, and other varieties found in the area. Matt stated the steep slopes may be a problem with fertilizer runoff, and suggested no fertilizer be used.

Mr. Cardaropoli restated that he will work with Sherman & Frydryk. He will eliminate the lawn at the south side of the driveway, and naturalize the bank and the area around the shed.

Don and Bob encouraged Caradaopoli to work on plan and return to commission.

Phone problems have been reported with the Commission's phone in which people are not able to leave a message. Glenn will investigate. Bob made a motion to purchase a new phone for the commission. Seconded and passed unanimous.

7:50 Palmer Motorsports Bob gave a brief description of the Motorsports project and the new request to use a right-of-way through town owned land to access the track site. The new route would significantly shorten the access road and result in significant savings to the applicant.

Don discussed allowing people to access land via right-of-way through town land and current access through the property. The town previously allowed access to a SFH via this ROW. A trade was made to allow access through this parcel in trade for public access through the private lands on Old Quarry Road.

Don thought the applicant may need to file a new NOI for a major change in the original plan. This change may be too large to be considered an amendment to the original. The new access may involve significant wetland issues.

8:05 Mail: Various items. Cutting plan for 25 acres, Peterson Road, Siegel.

Minutes: Accepted with corrections.

8:10 Bob called for election of Vice-chair to replace Christine. Dennis made the motion to elect Donald Duffy as Vice-chair. Matt seconded. All voted in favor of Don becoming the new vice-chair.

8:15 Matt made motion to adjourn. Peter seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Colburn