

Minutes
of the
Palmer Conservation Commission
May 1, 2012

Present: Robert Ring, Donald Duffy, Peter Izyk, Matthew Trybus, Dennis Cote

7:00 Elenor Szlachetka, 128 Boston Rd appeared before the commission to voice concerns she has for a logging operation near her property that has affected her well. In January 2010 logging was started on land owned by Raymond Bretton under a forest cutting plan approved by the state forester Mike Parker. The Szlachetka's were given a copy of the cutting plan, but noticed that not all wetlands were shown, and the well that supplies their water was also not shown on the plan. According to the Szlachetka's, a cease and desist order was given stop work to protect the water supply. The forester set up a meeting for all parties to resolve the problem. The forester expanded the wetland area on the plan and told the logger to stop cutting in the vicinity of the well. He also said that the well and water rights would be noted on the land so this would not happen again. During a second cutting of the land the same problem resulted. Trees had been dropped around and into the water source, making it impossible to access the well for maintenance. In spite of meeting with the forester and the logger, the logs remain in the water source. The Szlachetka's wish to have the area and access to the well restored so they may access the well. The commission noted forester should have control of the operation under the Forest Cutting Regulations. The Conservation Commission would attempt to reach out to Mr. Bretton and state forester Mr. Angeloni to resolve the problem and allow the Szlachetka's to access the well for maintenance.

7:20 Blake Lamothe, 103 water Street appeared before the commission to discuss a fence that he constructed on his property. Mr. Lamothe claimed he has trespass issues with his neighbors, and needed the fence to keep trespassers off the property and define the property line. The commission is concerned about the fence causing problems with collecting debris during flooding and creating a hazard. Also, the Riverfront Area is important as a wildlife corridor, and the fence may hinder movement. Glenn Colburn met with Mr. Lamothe and walked the property. No large trees have been cut during installation. Some small brush has been cleared on the fence line. The commission asked Mr. Lamothe to file a RFD with the commission so we may review the work and make a decision as to whether the fence will be allowed. This is a 25' Riverfront area.

CKS Auto, Wilbraham Road, commission has noted additional filling behind the building. In light of this second violation the commission is considering issuing an Enforcement Order. It appears that Wayne Doyle, who appeared before the Conservation Commission at the previous meeting, is not the actual property owner. Decision was made to have at least two commissioners at any meeting on site. Motion was made and seconded to issue an Enforcement Order with requirement for NOI and restoration of plan. The owner shall hire a professional wetland scientist to determine how much fill

has been spread in the resource area, and how much shall be removed from the flood plain.

Zachery Cooper, 54 French Drive, Lake Thompson, has not responded with a restoration plan as specified in the Enforcement Order issued for cutting of trees at the shoreline. Glenn did an inspection and there is no new work, and the area is stable at this time.

Mark and Melissa Cardaropoli, 19 new Hampshire Ave have asked to continue to May 15th meeting. Sherman & Frydryk are preparing a plan.

The commission discussed the matter of issuing fines for violations. We would like to see a fine of \$100 for any third violation of the wetland bylaw. A change in the “bylaw” would require a town vote. A change in the “regulations” would not require a vote by the town. Commission will look into the best way to set fines for violations. Discussion continued to next meeting.

Minutes accepted with corrections.

Report on informational meeting with Palmer Motorsports. They are expecting a report from MEPA and will be filing with Natural Heritage. A new proposed access will have less impact than the original access, but will still result in blasting and some impacts to wetlands. The new access would be an easement through conservation land on Old Ware Road. The current easement to a SFH is 20’ wide, and would need to be expanded to 40’ for the access road. The commission was agreeable to the request, and asked for trailhead parking and a trail for the public to access backland and Colonel Mt.

Lake Thompson Association has requested a letter allowing them to remove storm damaged trees and limbs along the shoreline that present a safety hazard. The commission reviewed a draft of a memorandum of understanding that would allow cleanup, and approved with corrections.

Mail:

Donald Wood submitted a NOI for construction of a shed and garage within the buffer zone.

NE Central RR will start herbicide application starting June 1st and finish by July 1st.

PVPC, Anne Capra would like to speak with the commission about the Conservation Compact, a shared agent compact. The commission will invite her to the next meeting.

Members/agent reports.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Colburn