

Minutes
of the
Palmer Conservation Commission
June 19, 2012

Present: Robert Ring, Donald Duffy, Peter Izyk, Glenn Colburn

7:00 Sunfield Solar, represented by Allary Brach from VHB, Inc, presented an ANRAD for confirmation of wetland boundaries on a parcel located between North Street and the Ware River, and north of Norbell Street. DEP has issued file #256-295. The commission walked the wetland line to the west of the tracks with representatives of VHB. An active rail line runs through the site.

Ms. Brach described the vegetation and terrain at the site. The submitted plan shows the wetland line and the 50' and 100' buffer zones. Ms. Brach stated there is a certifiable vernal pool in the area that was still holding water at the time of the site visit. Ms. Brach observed salamander egg masses in the pool.

Donald Duffy brought up the concern of preserving the historically significant aspects of the property and suggested that the Commission would like to see the property located to the east of the tracks donated to either the town, or a local land trust. Sunfield Solar should take this into account as future planning for the solar project continues. Duffy said the wetland delineation looked accurate and made a motion to accept the plan as submitted. Peter Izyk seconded, all in favor.

7:08 Dan Hartley, from Hartley Landscaping presented restoration plans as required under an Enforcement Order issued to Zackary Cooper, 54 French Drive. Under the restoration plan, a retaining wall near the shore line will be rebuilt with a two tier configuration. Plantings along the northerly property line will include dogwoods and maples. A shallow grass swale will run along the property line. Ring asked Hartley to show the oaks that are currently on the lot. Hartley then discussed what plants were chosen for plantings. Consideration was given for wildlife benefits. A combination of silt fence and wattles will be used for erosion controls. One line of erosion control will be installed near the shoreline. Additional fence may be used higher on the lot if necessary. Mr. Cooper will be doing the work under the supervision of Mr. Hartley.

7:30 The Commission signed an Order of Conditions for Donald Wood, 3190 foster Street. File #256-296 was issued by DEP with no comments. Shed will be 75' from any wetlands. The new garage will also be over 100' from wetlands. Peter Izyk abstained from signing to avoid a conflict.

7:35 Mark Cardaropoli, 19 New Hampshire Ave has placed cement markers in locations that were indicated on his plan. Having satisfied the commission with a clearly marked permanent undisturbed buffer strip, the Commission signed a Certificate of Compliance for the house and lot.

Duffy told the commission that CKS Auto is ready for an inspection of the work they have done to correct a wetland violation. Colburn will contact and arrange a date for a site visit.

Duffy made a motion to accept minutes with corrections. Izyk seconded, all in favor.

Ring has discussed the shared agent proposal by PVPC. At this time the commission has decided not to participate in the program. Ring will contact Anne Capra at PVPC. Cost was a major consideration in this decision.

Mail:

A letter from Belchertown Land Trust acknowledging receipt of Duffy's letter alerting them to safety issues at the site of the former mill at the Swift River area.

Regular report of Knox Pond conditions.

MACC bill for \$231 for member dues. Approved by the commission.

Submittal of RDA from MassBroadband to bury fiberoptic cable on Shearer Street.

RDA for Christine Bost, 38 French Drive, tree removal, construction of a pool, shed, and deck in the buffer zone.

RDA for Albert Fontaine, 26 Geraldine Street, construction of a garage in the buffer zone.

8:02 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Colburn