



TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 – 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Town Hall Meeting Room
4417 Main St Palmer MA

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

Sarah Fortune,
Conservation Agent

Members Present: Donald Blais, Jr.
Dorothy Lawrence
Brenda Cole
Peter Izyk
Nicholas Zeo
Dave Cotter (Enters at 6:56pm)
Lucas McDiarmid

Members Absent: None

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

2. **Review Mail/Phone Messages**

a. Forest Lake Letter

The PCC received a notice from Fletcher Tilton Attorneys at Law regarding the Seasonal Cottages at Forest Lake regarding the proposed directional drilling under the Ware River for the installation of a new water main that will connect the site to the Bondsville Water District. The letter stated that a Chapter 91 Waterways License and a 401 Water Quality Certification will not be required for the work as long as there is an adequate frac-out plan to prevent the discharge into the river from drilling muds pushed through the bottom of the riverbed. It also stated that when the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the directional drilling/water main project is filed, a frac out plan should be included with the NOI. The Agent added that the letter indicates that a separate NOI will be filed for the water main, rather than amending the current Notice of Intent to include this portion of the project. Peter Izyk stated that the previous water main project was going to be filed under a separate NOI because the Town was going to take ownership of the water main line; although the water main route has now changed, the Town will still take ownership of the water main. Dorothy Lawrence added that a new NOI should be filed since it is a separate site, within the town roadway.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

a. 2/15/2022

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to approve the minutes from 2/15/2022 as written

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk

No further discussion

Motion Caries 4-0-1 (Brenda Cole abstained)

- b. 3/1/2022

Motion made by Lucas McDiarmid to table the approval of the minutes from 3/1/2022 to 4/15/2022 at 6:30pm

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk

No further discussion

Motion Caries 6-0-0

4. Approval of Payables

- a. ESRI: \$800.00 – ArcGIS software

Motion made by Lucas McDiarmid to table the approval of the payable to 4/15/2022 at 6:30pm

Motion seconded by Nick Zeo

No further Discussion

Motion Caries 6-0-0

5. New/Old Business:

- a. Hazard Mitigation Plan:

The Agent reported that the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan has to be updated this year, and the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Committee held their first meeting on 3/10/2022. The update process will occur quickly over the next few months and will be two informational sessions held via zoom. A consultant has been hired to help complete the HMP.

- b. Ware River Access Project- Bennet St

The Agent reported that she met with Keith Davies of the Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council and Jessie Opio on 3/7/22 to discuss the Ware River Access Project on Bennett Street. Jessie is a Life Scout looking to become an Eagle Scout and has expressed interest in taking this project on as his Eagle Scout Project. They discussed ideas for project, revised the access location and pathway to be closer to the existing bridge abutment, and reviewed proposed parking area, the informational kiosk, and area of erosion on the bank. Jessie will present project to Scout council then present the project to the PCC per their OOC for trail maintenance, regulated under DEP # 256-0302. The project is intended to occur during the month of June 2022 which is also Rivers Month.

- c. Discuss Spring River Clean-up Event: 4/23/2022 from 9 AM to 12 PM:

The Agent stated that the Earth Day River & Town-wide Cleanup event will occur on Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 9 AM to 12 PM and will be based at Laviolette Field. The Agent wanted to provide a dumpster in each of the four (4) villages to make trash disposal more convenient for folks organizing their own cleanup crew, but the cost of the dumpsters was quoted as around \$2,000, which was not feasible. A dumpster will be available at Laviolette Field, as well as cleanup supplies such as trash bags and gloves, for folks to use in their cleanup efforts. The Agent is encouraging folks to organize a cleanup crew to tackle trash in their neighborhood, along their favorite river, or at their favorite open space and recreation area.

- d. Update: 604b Grant

The Agent reported that she might request that the scope of work for the grant be revised to eliminate one (1) of the two (2) required public information sessions. The first public information session was to occur at the beginning of the grant contract with Forest Lake residents to discuss and identify pollution sources to the lake, prior to the commencement of field investigations by the consultant, which did not occur due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Agent will report back to the PCC after she's discussed this with the 604(b) grant program coordinator.

e. Update: FEMA MHGP

The Agent stated that she received approval from MEMA to use SLR, International as the consultant for construction oversight and bid assistance for the FEMA HMGP. SLR, International previously provided consulting services for the FY19 DER Culvert Replacement Grant and the FY20 MVP Action Grant which funded the field investigation and permitting components of the Route 181 Culvert Replacement Project. The Agent was able to document that proper procurement methods were utilized to obtain this consultant for all the work relating to this project. SLR, International did provide a proposal for these services that was integrated into the grant application budget but needs to update the proposal due to a change in the company name. SLR, International will provide an updated proposal for these services in the next few weeks.

f. Update: 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Donald Blais, Jr. asked about the status of the conditional approval for the 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update. The Agent reported that she has not received the conditional approval letter yet and will follow up with DCS because it needs to be submitted for Hazard Mitigation Plan.

6. **Set Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting of the Palmer Conservation Commission is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room of the Town Administration Building located at 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

7. **Adjourn**

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to adjourn at 7:14pm

No further discussion

Motion seconded by Lucas McDiarmid

Motion Carries 7-0-0

No further discussion

Sincerely Submitted,
Sarah A. Fortune
Palmer Conservation Agent



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Meeting Documents

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Sarah Fortune, Agent

The following is a list of documents used at the above-mentioned meeting, in addition to those included in the agenda packet which is part of the official record of the meeting:

Number	Description	Agenda Item	Notes
1.	Meeting Minutes: 2/15/2022	Approval of Minutes	Retained in binder for 2022 Agendas & Minutes
2.	Meeting Minutes: 3/1/2022	Approval of Minutes	Approval tabled until 4/5/2022 at 6:30 PM
3.	Letter from Fletcher Tilton Attorneys at Law: Forest Lake Properties, LLC – proposed Seasonal Cottages; DEP # 256-0336	Review Mail/Phone Messages	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0336