

# TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 6:30 PM

**LOCATION: Town Administrative Building Meeting Room**

Donald Blais, Chair  
Dorothy Lawrence, Vice Chair  
David Cotter  
Peter Izyk  
Nicholas Zeo  
Brenda Cole  
Mike Swiatek  
  
Angela Panaccione, Agent  
Sarah Fortune, Assistant

**Members Present:** Donald Blais, Jr. (in-person)  
Dorothy Lawrence (phone)  
Peter Izyk (phone)  
Brenda Cole (phone)

**Members Absent:** David Cotter  
Nicholas Zeo  
Mike Swiatek

**Also Present:** Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent (in-person)  
Sarah Fortune, Conservation Assistant (in-person)

1. **Call to Order:** 6:32 PM – Donald Blais, Jr. (Chair)
  - a. Roll call attendance:
    - i. **Donald Blais, Jr. – present**
    - ii. **Dorothy Lawrence – present**
    - iii. **Peter Izyk – present**
    - iv. **Brenda Cole - present**

### 2. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. 3/3/2020

**Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to approve the meeting minutes from 3/3/2020 as amended**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**No further discussion**

**Role call vote: Donald Blais, Jr. – aye; Dorothy Lawrence – aye; Peter Izyk – aye; Brenda Cole - aye**

**Vote was Unanimous - Motion carries**

### 3. **Approval of Payables**

- a. UMass - \$300.00
- b. Camerase & Verizon Bill - \$857.04

The PCC discussed giving the Conservation Agent the authority to approve all payables moving forward during the upcoming quarantine related to COVID-19.

**Motion made by Peter Izyk to give the Conservation Agent the authority to approve all payables moving forward**

**Motion seconded by Dorothy Lawrence**

**No further discussion**

**Role call vote: Donald Blais, Jr. – aye; Dorothy Lawrence – aye; Peter Izyk – aye; Brenda Cole - aye**

**Vote was Unanimous - Motion carries**

**4. Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings**

- a. 7:00 PM Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP #256-0343 – 116 Nipmuck Street (Map 2 Lot 52): The applicant submitted a Notice of Intent for activities associated with the construction of a detached garage and extension of a driveway with associated site work. The work is proposed within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW), and the locally protected 50-foot vegetated buffer strip to BVW.

Donald Blais, Jr. opened the public hearing at 6:36 PM and asked for a motion to continue the public hearing until 4/21/2020 at 6:30 PM.

**Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to continue the public hearing for DEP # 256-0343 for 166 Nipmuck Street (Map 2 Lot 52) until 4/21/2020 at 6:30 PM**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**No further discussion**

**Role call vote: Donald Blais, Jr. – aye; Dorothy Lawrence – aye; Peter Izyk – aye; Brenda Cole - aye**

**Vote was Unanimous - Motion carries**

**5. New/Old Business**

- a. Land Donation – Flunt Street

The Agent reported that the land donation off Flynt Street is in-process – the town attorney is conducted a title search and the current owners of the property are preparing a deed. Once the title search and deed preparation are complete, the PCC will request that Town Council accept the land donation and place the property in the care and custody of the PCC.

- b. MA Open Space Conference on 4/25/2020

The MA Open Space Conference will now consist of a series of webinars rather than an in-person conference due to the current COVID-19 outbreak. The Conservation Assistant will still present on landowner outreach for one of the webinars. More information on the webinar series is TBD.

- c. Palmer Artisan Fair on 5/2/2020

The Palmer Artisan Fair that was scheduled to occur on 5/2/2020 has now been cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

- d. Rain Barrel/Compost Bin Program (Possibly at Artisan Fair)

Please see the section above on the Palmer Artisan Fair.

- e. Culvert Assessments & Stormwater outfall mapping

Culvert assessments have now been cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Agent is currently working with the MVP Program to discuss other options to constitute the Town’s match portion of the grant so the town can move forward with the project. More information on culvert assessments is TBD.

f. Earth Day Cleanup on 4/18/2020

The Earth Day River Cleanup scheduled to occur on 4/18/2020 has now been cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. It is not certain whether or not this event will be rescheduled at this time.

g. Workday at First Street with Scouts BSA on 5/16/2020

The PCC scheduled a workday with Scouts BSA at First Street to continue to spread mulch around the loop trail to suppress the growth of Poison ivy and to stain/seal the gazebo on 5/16/2020. This workday might still occur regardless of the COVID-19 outbreak; the Agent will inform the PCC on the status of the workday as we get closer to 5/16/2020.

h. Master Plan Update

The first Master Plan Update meeting is scheduled to occur on 3/19/2020 via Skype and will consist of a meet and greet for the volunteers serving on the Master Plan Update Committee.

i. MSMCP Zoom Training

MSMCP has scheduled a training opportunity on using Zoom for virtual meetings on 3/18/2020.

j. Field Day on 3/18/2020

The Agent and Assistant will be in the field for the entirety of the day on 3/18/2020 and the Conservation Office will be closed.

k. Cameras at First Street

Cameras to monitor the Swift River Greenbelt Conservation Area at First Street in Bondsville have been purchased and installed on site, but the batteries continue to die due to the amount of activity at the site. The Agent and Assistant will continue to trouble shoot the battery issues with the cameras so that the batteries don't have to be changed as frequently. Solar panels might be purchased in the future to power the cameras.

**6. Set Next Meeting Date**

- a. The next meeting of the PCC is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

**7. Meeting Adjourned: 6:48 PM**

**Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to adjourn at 6:48 PM**

**Motion was seconded by Peter Izyk**

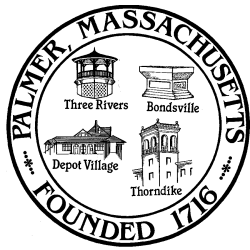
**Role call vote: Donald Blais, Jr. – aye; Dorothy Lawrence – aye; Peter Izyk – aye; Brenda Cole - aye**

**Vote was Unanimous - Motion carries**

Sincerely Submitted,

Sarah A. Fortune

Palmer Conservation Assistant



# TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Meeting Documents

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 6:30 PM

**LOCATION: Town Administrative Building Meeting Room**

Donald Blais, Chair  
Dorothy Lawrence, Vice  
Chair  
David Cotter  
Peter Izyk  
Nicholas Zeo  
Brenda Cole  
Mike Swiatek

Angela Panaccione, Agent  
Sarah Fortune, Assistant

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:

<b>Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1.	Meeting Minutes: 3/4/2020	Approval of Minutes	Retained in 2020 minute binder in office
2.	DEP # 256-0343: 116 Nipmuck Street (Map 2 Lot 52); Notice of Intent, site plans & associated documents	Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings	Retained in file for DEP #256-0343