



TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 – 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Town Administrative Building Meeting Room

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

Angela Panaccione, Agent
Jeff Stanhope, Assistant

Members Present: Donald Blais, Jr.
David Cotter
Peter Izyk
Brenda Cole
Dorothy Lawrence
Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent
Jeff Stanhope, Conservation Assistant

Members Absent: Nicholas Zeo

Also Present: Mike Swiatek, Interested New Commissioner
Nancy Bisnette, Interested New Commissioner
Rose and Cory Rugg, 1117 Ware Street
Donald Frydryk, Sherman & Frydryk
David Haines, Haines Hydrogeological
Joe Midura

1. **Call to Order:** 6:34 PM – Donald Blais, Jr. (Chair)

2. **Chair, Member & Committee Reports**

a. **Lucas McDiarmid Resignation**

The Commission acknowledges his resignation and is appreciative of his service.

3. **Review Phone/Mail/E-Mail Messages**

a. **Offer of Land Donation: Sykes Street (Lots 18-1, 18-2-1 & 18-18)**

Elms College made an offer of land donation of three parcels located nearby the bridge overpass on Route 181 and adjacent to the railroad tracks as well as the Quaboag River. They want to gift it to us, therefore we have to vote to accept the gift, and then present it before the Town Council who will have to vote to give the Commission care and control over the gifted lots. One main concern associated with land gifts is the amount of tax loss that would be taken upon acceptance of the aforementioned lot gifts.

**Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to accept the donation of three parcels from Elms College.
Seconded by David Cotter.**

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries.

**Motion by Brenda Cole to present the acceptance of the gifted lots before the Town Council.
Seconded by Peter Izyk.**

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries.

4. Public Inquiries

a. Interested New Members: Nancy Bisnette & Mike Swiatek

Nancy Bisnette – Lives in Palmer. Nancy is interested because perhaps she can do some good, educating people about the environmental needs of our town as well as our country. She firmly believes climate change is not a joke and that people need to do their part to keep us safe. Nancy thinks if we can do our part locally in our town to combat climate change, then maybe other towns can learn from the example and standard we set. She is a writer for a magazine, Mother Earth News, in which her articles related to topics like conservation are published. Nancy has a very high interest in our planet well as a passion for fighting the negative effects and impacts that climate change has on a global scale.

Mike Swiatek – Lives in Palmer; a resident of the town for a little over 20 years. Mike is a Project Manager for a construction company and has been in that career field for many years now. He's dealt heavily with environmental issues all around the world because of his work experience. Mike is interested in the great outdoors and hobbies such as hunting, fishing, camping, etc. He is currently still working full-time and recently took a local job with a veteran owned company. Mike transitioned to local work in order to get off the road and be able to spend more time with his family too.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. February 5, 2019

Motion made by Brenda Cole to table the minutes from February 5, 2019.

Motion seconded by David Cotter.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries.

6. Approval of Payables

a. Mileage – \$491.26

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to approve the payable to Angela Panaccione for Mileage Reimbursement from 2/4/2019 – 3/16/2019 from the Conservation Commission Town Wetlands Ordinance Account.

Seconded by Peter Izyk.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries.

b. Mileage – \$43.50

Motion made by Peter Izyk to approve the payable to Donald Blais for Mileage Reimbursement for the MACC Annual Environmental Conference 2019 from the Conservation Commission Town Wetlands Ordinance Account.

Seconded by David Cotter.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries.

7. **Signing of Documents (DOA, OOC, COC, Ext, Etc.):** No Signing of Documents.

8. **Schedule of Public Hearings**

- a. 7:00 PM Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP #256-0339: Corydon C. & Rosemary Hovat Rugg – 1117 Ware Street (Map 37-39)

The applicant is requesting an Order of Conditions for the proposed development of a single family home. Work is proposed within a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and its buffer zone.

David Haines of Haines Hydrogeological and Don Frydryk of Sherman & Frydryk were present at tonight's continuance of this public hearing. There is a proposed driveway going into the house site at 1117 Ware Street. In the last public hearing there was a concern about the size of the culverts, therefore Don Frydryk worked on an alternative analysis and looked into other options for the culverts. He did a rain water analysis and calculated an alternative method with the intent to reduce the amount of required fill. All of the flow that will pass over the driveway will be overland flow that will end up back into the stream channel. David Haines added that the culverts are flat bottomed culverts, which are helpful for wildlife migration as well as low impact to the environment, with the different size culvert and rain gardens along the driveway.

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to close the public hearing at 7:07 pm.

Seconded by David Cotter.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries.

Motion made by Brenda Cole to accept the project under the Limited Project Provision 310 CMR 10.53(3).

Seconded by Peter Izyk.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries.

Motion made by Brenda Cole to issue the Order of Conditions with Special Conditions and Finding of Facts.

Seconded by David Cotter.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries.

- b. 7:30 PM Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP #256-0336: Forest Lake Seasonal Cottages – Off River Street & Forest Lake Road (Map 36-86, 31-1-1, 30-11-5)

Motion made by Brenda Cole to continue the public hearing to Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Seconded by Dorothy Lawrence.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries.

9. **Requests for Certificate of Compliance:** No Requests for Certificate of Compliance.

10. **Project Monitoring**

- a. DEP #256-0331: 271 Breckenridge Solar

The Agent has kept tabs on them to make sure they do their weekly SWPPS.

b. DEP #256-0332: L12 Breckenridge

The Agent learned their plan may be to install the panels first prior to the loam, mulch, and seed of the site in order to prevent storm water and snow melt problems that have occurred heavily in other similar projects. The Agent explained it is not a typical sequence, but an experiment to see if this construction sequence will be more effective. The concern in the normal sequence, rather than the reverse they will attempt, is the 4:1 slopes on site that draw a worry of a blowout of water that the Agent and Commission have seen in other solar sites. They are trying out this reverse sequence with permission from the Agent in an attempt to reduce runoff. The Agent has a site visit at L12 Breckenride on Friday, March 22, 2019.

11. Violations & Enforcement

a. DEP #256-0312: MassDOT I-90 Toll Plaza

The Agent has been back and forth with them, but has yet to receive an update. No other updates.

b. L65 Bennett Street

Jeff called and left a voicemail for him to attend tonight's meeting, but was not called back. No other updates.

c. 12 River Street Solar

The Agent is waiting on their revised engineering plans; the switch to temporary basins to permanent basins. No other updates.

d. 110 Rondeau Road

The Agent is unsure if it is the well and is still working with Josh from Board of Health on this issue; who believes it cannot be the well because in that case they would have no water. No other updates.

12. New/Old Business

a. 604(b) Grant for Forest Lake

Jeff is still waiting on responses for proposal quotes from the requested consultants.

b. LAND Grant

The Agent budgeted 7—8k for land survey of the turnpike parcel; will search for surveyors.

c. Trail Grant

Site Visit SV for the Gazebo tomorrow at Noon 12:00 pm to see what site preparation needs to be done. Fence, kiosk, picnic table; work days. Reimbursement Request was approved.

d. MACC AEC Saturday 3/2/2019

The entire Commission was able to attend. The workshop choices were diverse and the food was good.

e. MLTC Annual Conference Saturday 3/23/2019

Massachusetts Land Trust Conference at Worcester Technical High School in Worcester, MA.

f. MVP Public Listening Session Monday 4/8/2019

The Agent will send a comment that we request the group picture to be included in the packet.

g. Three Rivers River Clean Up Saturday 4/27/2019

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Noon.

h. TRACK Saturday 5/4/2019

Artisan Festival 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Schedule time slots (10 – 4) for ConCom Tent in month of April.

i. MA DER Ecological Restoration Annual Report

The Agent may or may not have e-mailed it to the Commission; she was featured in it and quoted too.

j. Rain Barrel/Compost Machine Saturday 6/8/2019

Palmer will partner with Belchertown. Palmer: Rain Barrel; Belchertown: Compost. First Street Bondsville.

k. Local Emergency Planning Committee

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) of Palmer needs a representative from the ConCom. David Cotter will be the representative.

l. Solar Ordinance Meeting Monday 3/25/2019

Public Comment Meeting 3/25/2019 for anybody anyone from the ConCom who wants to comment.

13. Office Closed: Wednesday, March 27, 2019

14. Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

15. Meeting Adjourned: 7:58 PM

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to adjourn at 7:58 PM.

Motion was seconded by Brenda Cole.

No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries.

Sincerely Submitted,

Jeff Stanhope

Palmer Conservation Assistant



TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Documents

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David Cotter, Vice Chair
Peter Izyk
Nicholas Zeo
Brenda Cole
Dorothy Lawrence
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:

Number	Description	Agenda Item	Notes
1.	Approval of Meeting Minutes: 2/5/2019	Approval of Meeting Minutes	Retained in 2019 Minutes binder in office
2.	Offer of Land Donation: Sykes Street (Map 18-1, 18-2-1, 18-18)	Review Mail/Phone Messages	Retained in Sykes Street Land Donation file in office
3.	Notice of Intent (NOI), site plans & associated documents: DEP # 256-0339 – 1117 Ware Street (Map 37-39); single family home construction	Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0339
5.	Notice of Intent (NOI), site plans & associated documents: DEP # 256-0336; Forest Lake Seasonal Cottages – Off River Street & Forest Lake Road (Map 36-86, 31-1-1, 30-11-5)	Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0336
6.	Monitoring Reports: DEP # 256-0331; 271 Breckenridge Street (Map 19-60)	Project Monitoring	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0331
7.	Monitoring Reports: DEP # 256-0332; L12 Breckenridge Street (Map 7-12, 7-13, & 59-28)	Project Monitoring	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0332