



TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 21st, 2023 – 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Town Hall Meeting Room
4417 Main St Palmer MA

Members Present: Donald Blais, Jr.
Peter Izyk
Dave Cotter
Nick Zeo
Dorothy Lawrence

Members Absent: Brenda Cole
Lucas McDiarmid

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

2. **New/Old Business:**

The Chair welcomed Recreation Director Andrew St. George. He stated that the Agent, Andrew and he spoke in length about upcoming events as well as where things are at.

Andrew stated recreation and conservation will be working hand and hand. His primary focus is getting people outside onto the trails and conservation land.

He mentioned an Easter Egg hunt at Midura will be happening this year. It will be a free event to anyone who would like to attend. There will be an easy hunt on the yellow trail for younger folks, and a harder one for older/more the adventurous on the white trail. He reiterated this is not just a children's event.

He then stated he has new software in the recreation department for people to register for events.

He then brought up the idea of geocaching on the trails. He wants people to have fun on the Town's trails.

Peter Izyk asked how people can find out more information regarding these events.

Andrew St. George said they can check Facebook, and the towns website. He then stated they have a new website PalmerRec.com, which is currently in the process of becoming the main website. He stated it will have the capability of sending out targeted emails for people who register through the system.

Nick Zeo stated the signage on the trails could be updated to include QR codes to connect to mapping apps such as All Trails.

3. **Hearings:**

6:45 pm – Cont. Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP #256-0362: Church St Bridge Demolition and Replacement:

The Chairman opened the hearing at 6:55pm.

A motion to close the public hearing for DEP #256-0362 for the Notice of Intent submitted for activities associated with the proposed repair and replacement of the bridge at Church Street on the Ware River at 6:57pm was made by Nick Zeo.

Motion seconded by Dorothy Lawrence.

No further discussion.

Motion carries 5-0.

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A motion to issue an Order of Conditions with special conditions and approved plans and documents for DEP #256-0362 for activities associated with the proposed repair and replacement of the bridge at Church Street on the Ware River at 6:58pm PM made by Dorothy Lawrence.

Motion seconded by Dave Cotter.

No further discussion.

Motion carries 5-0.

7:00 pm – Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP #256-0367: Lot 8 Fuller St (Map 29-67-3):

The Chairman opened the hearing at 7:02 pm. Don Frydryk of Sherman and Frydryk Land Surveying and Engineering was present on behalf of the applicant. He went over the project and what the applicant is proposing. He stated the project consists of the construction of a single family home, a driveway, private well, lawn area, and private sanitary sewage disposal system. Work is proposed to occur within the 100' buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW). He stated there is no NHES areas and it is not within a floodplain.

The Agent stated she would like to see more erosion control measures near the 50ft buffer. She also stated that a permanent boundary to delineate the lawn from the buffer zone should be put in place, such as boulders or posts, or native low lying bushes.

An abutter stated his concerns with disturbing the wetlands since it is an animal habitat.

A motion to close the public hearing for DEP #256-0367 for the Notice of Intent submitted for the construction of a single family home with a private sewage disposal system at Lot 8, Fuller Street at 7:18 PM was made by Dorothy Lawrence.

Motion seconded by Dave Cotter.

Motion carries 5-0.

No further discussion.

A motion to issue an Order of Conditions with special conditions and approved plans and documents for DEP #256-0367 for construction of a single family home with a private sewage disposal system at Lot 8, Fuller St at 7:19 PM was made by Dorothy Lawrence

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk.

Motion carries 5-0.

No further discussion.

7:30 pm- Request for Determination of Applicability -- 234 Flynt St (Map 14-80):

Alan White from Cold Spring Environmental was present on behalf of the applicant. It was stated this hearing is for a determination to see if work associated with the demolition of an addition and a shed is subject to the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Protection Ordinance. The work is proposed to occur within the 100' buffer to BVW.

He stated the shed is to be manually deconstructed, not mechanically.

He then explained there will be a double barrier during construction. A site visit was preformed with The Agent, The Chairman, Peter Izyk, and Nick Zeo.

The Agent then asked where the woodchips on site came from. The property owner stated that he had a company come out and remove all the invasive species on site, as well as had wood chips brought in to eventually fill the remaining foundation to hopefully stop further invasive growth there.

It was then asked what was to happen with the concrete slab left once the shed is taken down, and he stated that he will leave it.

The Agent stated that there is some trash along the back of the property that needs to be cleaned up. It was also asked what type of revegetation will occur after demolition, to which the property owner stated he will reseed and have lawn there.

Nick Zeo made a motion to close the public meeting for the RDA submitted for activities associated with the demolition of an addition and a shed at 234 Flynt St at 7:30 PM.

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Motion seconded by Dorothy Lawrence.

Motion carries 5-0.

No further discussion.

Dorothy Lawrence made a motion to make a negative determination, box 3, stating that the work described within the request is within the buffer zone, as defined by the regulations, but will not alter an area subject to protection under the act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to the standard order of special conditions.

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk.

Motion carries 5-0.

No further discussion.

4. Chair, Member & Committee Reports:

Nick Zeo stated the Masterplan Implementation Committee met with Chris Connelly the Superintendent of Palmer Water District and discussed facilitation the merge of the departments.

The Agent then stated she is speaking with Amy at pathfinder regarding outreach programs.

5. Review Correspondence:

- a. Amended Forest Cutting Plan- Lauri Cotela Trust 23 Burlingame Road

Brief discussion regarding map ensued.

- b. Utility Notification- National Grid: Insulator replacements at structures 87 and 88 on 303 line located north of Smith Street. No earth work is required in this repair.

No questions or discussion.

6. Minutes: 9/20/22

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to approve the minutes of 9/20/22.

Motion seconded by Dave Cotter.

No further discussion.

Motion Caries 5-0.

7. Violations/Enforcement:

- a. Notice of Violation – Lot 65 Bennett St:

The Agent stated reports of dumping lawn clippings and yard debris into resource area from landscapers on the property. A notice of violation was mailed to the homeowner informing them to cease and desist otherwise enforcement action will be taken. She stated that this is not the first time regarding this matter/homeowner.

It was noted that the Agent will touch base with the PCC's lawyer and a letter will be sent certified mail to the property owner.

- b. Earth day townwide clean-up Saturday, 4/22/2023 from 9 AM-12 PM, Laviolette Field.

It was discussed that an event will be taking place on Earth Day, 4/22 at starting at 9am to 12pm. The agent stated supplies will be provided, as well as coffee and donuts. There will be a dumpster on site to dispose of trash picked up.

8. Adjourn:

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to adjourn at 7:56pm.

Motion seconded by Nick Zeo.

No further discussion.

Motion Caries 5-0.

