

TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 3rd, 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.
Dorothy Lawrence
David Cotter
Peter Izyk
Nicholas Zeo
Mike Swiatek
Brenda Cole
Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent
Sarah Fortune, Conservation Assistant

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Don Frydrk, Sherman & Frydryk LLC; 3 Converse Street, Palmer, MA 01069
Paul Les; 19 Colonial Street, Palmer, MA 01069
Kevin Bowler; 5 Crawford Street, Bondsville, MA 01009

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

2. **Approval of Minutes**

a. 2/4/2020

Motion made by Mike Swiatek to approve the meeting minutes from 2/4/2020 as amended

Motion seconded by Nick Zeo

No further discussion – 6-0-1 – Motion carries (Brenda Cole abstained)

3. **Approval of Payables**

a. MACC - \$500.00

Motion made by Mike Swiatek to approve the payable to MACC in the amount of \$500.00 for Annual Conference Registration from the General Expense Account

Motion seconded by Dorothy Lawrence

No further discussion – 7-0-0 – Motion carries

b. Mileage - \$348.45

Motion made by Brenda Cole to approve the payable to Angela Panaccione for mileage in the amount of \$348.45 from the Town Wetlands Ordinance Fee (CONFEE) Account

Motion seconded by Dorothy Lawrence

No further discussion – 7-0-0 – Motion carries

c. Mileage - \$27.60

Motion made by Nick Zeo to approve the payable to Sarah Fortune for mileage in the amount of \$27.60 from the Town Wetlands Ordinance Fee (CONFEE) Account

Motion seconded by Mike Swiatek

No further discussion – 7-0-0 – Motion carries

d. Mileage - \$41.40

Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to approve the payable to Donald Blais, Jr. for mileage in the amount of \$41.40 from the Town Wetlands Ordinance Fee (CONFEE) Account

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk

No further discussion – 7-0-0 – Motion carries

4. Public Inquiries

a. MCRT Discussion

Kevin Bowler of the Friends of the Belchertown Greenway was in attendance to discuss opportunities to expand the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) to Palmer. Kevin would like to create a “Friends” Committee in Palmer to support the expansion of the MCRT, similar to the group in Belchertown, which owns a large portion of the MCRT and is spearheading the expansion project through grant writing, advocacy and public outreach to gain local support for the project. The Agent informed Mr. Bowler that a large portion of the MCRT in Palmer passes through Bondsville and passes by Forest Lake, but the section that passes through Bondsville to State Street is still listed as railroad property and that a section of the trail passes right next to an active rail line which poses a threat to public safety. Another aspect to consider with respect to this project is the cost to improve the rail trail due to overgrown vegetation and the need to construct bridges over the Swift and Ware Rivers, which would cost approximately 15 million dollars. Mr. Bowler informed the PCC that the state will provide the funding to construct bridges as necessary, which he learned from attending regional meetings to discuss the rail trail expansion. The Agent will incorporate this project into the Open Space and Recreation Plan update which will help identify this project as a priority for the community and to gain support for it. The Agent will update the PCC as more information on this project becomes available.

5. Project Monitoring

a. DEP # 0256-0248 – Quaker Lane

Don Frydrk and Paul Les were in attendance to discuss the subdivision project at Quaker Lane off Flynt Street, and submitted a preliminary As-Built site plan for the project that includes the completed roadway, excavation for individual house lots, drainage and stormwater basins. Don Frydrk informed the PCC that there is still work to do on Flynt Street as part of the mitigation component; two (2) berms remain to be constructed, one (1) on each side of Flynt Street with associated runoffs. The Agent requested that the final As-Built site plan superimpose the final work on the original site plan so that the PCC can determine overall compliance with the original permit; Don was amenable to this request.

The Agent reminded the PCC that culvert work was chosen to serve as mitigation rather than the Conservation Restriction property that was originally proposed for mitigation. Paul Les informed the PCC that he and the Agent reviewed several culverts for replacement or repair, such as on Breckenridge Street, which would be a

major project and extremely expensive to replace the culvert. Other culverts on Cabot Street could be cleaned and have additional rip rap installed to improve their functionality, which would be more cost effective and would alleviate water build-up and overflow from these culverts onto the road. Paul offered to make a list of culverts that could be cleaned and could coordinate with the DPW to conduct this work. The Agent suggested that the Shearer Street culvert should be looked at for replacement because it will be designed and engineered by MassDOT. She also suggested that the culvert at the junction of Smith and Beech Street be reviewed for replacement as well. Don Frydrk asked if there is other work that could be done to serve as mitigation for this project; Paul Les informed him that something should be done on Flynt Street where the stormwater basins are located due to a 12-inch accumulation of sediment due to a difference in grades between each side of the street. Paul continued to state that major culverts could be cleaned and repaired with minimal work, as opposed to focusing all the mitigation efforts on one (1) culvert replacement. The Agent reminded Don and Paul that the final As-Built and mitigation work for this project must be conducted by July 2020.

6. 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 conducting 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.

a. MA Open Space Conference on 4/25/2020

The MA Open Space Conference will be held on 4/25/2020 at Greenfield Community College in Greenfield, and all interested PCC members are welcome to attend. The Assistant has been asked to present on the topic of landowner outreach. The Assistant will forward the registration information to the PCC so they may attend the conference as well.

b. Palmer Artisan Fair on 5/2/2020

The Palmer Artisan Fair will be held on 5/2/2020, and the Agent would like to include the annual rain barrel and compost bin program at this year's event as a way to increase overall attendance at the event given the popularity of the rain barrel and compost bin program. The Agent will update the PCC when she has received a response from the Palmer Cultural Council on the request to include the rain barrel and compost bin program at the event.

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

Please see the section above on the Palmer Artisan Fair.

a. Culvert Assessments & Stormwater outfall mapping

Culvert assessments are scheduled to occur on Friday, 3/7/2020 in the field. The Agent met with consultants for the design and replacement of the Route 181 culvert and discussed closing the road for a weekend in order to conduct the replacement work; the other option would be to close one (1) lane of Route 181, but that would likely increase the time to complete the culvert replacement from a few days to a few months. The work must occur during the summer due to the fact that the stream is a coldwater fisheries resource.

b. Earth Day Cleanup on 4/18/2020

The PCC will be organizing an Earth Day Cleanup at Laviolette on 4/18/2020 from 9 AM to 12 PM and will partnering with Opacum Land Trust and the Keep Palmer Clean Group on this event. The Agent and Assistant will attend the Opacum Land Trust pancake breakfast on 3/21/2020 to publicize the cleanup, and all PCC members are welcome to attend.

c. Workday at First Street with Scouts BSA

The PCC will schedule 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 either 5/9/2020 or 5/16/2020. The Agent will inform the PCC when the date has been finalized.

7. Set Next Meeting Date

- a. The next meeting of the PCC is scheduled to occur on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

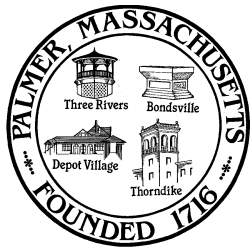
8. Meeting Adjourned: 7:42 PM

Motion made by Mike Swiatek to adjourn at 7:42 PM

Motion was seconded by Dorothy Lawrence

No further discussion – 7-0-0 – Motion Carries

Sincerely Submitted,
Sarah A. Fortune
Palmer Conservation Assistant



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Meeting Documents

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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: 2/4/2020	Approval of Minutes	Retained in 2020 minute binder in office
2.	DEP # 256-0248: Quaker Lane; Preliminary As-Built Site Plan	Project Monitoring	Retained in file for DEP #256-0248