



# 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, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 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  
Brenda Cole

**Members Absent:**  
Lucas McDiarmid

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

2. **Review Correspondence:**

a. **Utility Notification- National Grid**

1. Replacement of pole P34 (approx. 1154 Park St) within 100' buffer to intermittent stream and within zone 2 of a Wellhead protection area

The Agent stated this is exempt via 310CMR 10.02 as a minor exemption for repairing or replacing utility poles. She stated there will be trimming and removal of vegetation and replacing the pole.

b. **Massachusetts Central Railroad-- Yearly Operational Plan**

1. Vegetation management operations for Railroad's right-of-way

The Agent passed around the map that was submitted. She stated there was an area near Brown St she saw on Mass Mapper with a possible wetland. The PCC has until May 24<sup>th</sup> to provide comments.

3. **New/Old Business:**

- a. Andrew St. George- Midura Event

The Chairman welcomed Andrew St. George. He stated in the past there had been more regularly scheduled community events held at Midura Conservation Area, and he would like to begin again. Andrew stated he is willing to be the point of contact and logistical coordinator regarding events if need be. He wants to see the public out on the land. He also stated the fundraising effort surrounding events will be to replace the kiosk there. There was previous discussion regarding a fundraising cookout, an acoustic band etc. There would need to be enough room for parking. He then went on to mention various methods of raising funds. A tentative date of August 26<sup>th</sup> has been scheduled. There was also discussion regarding having it elsewhere in town due to parking. The possibility of a town wide scavenger hunt type activity was brought up.

4. **Hearings**

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- a. **7:00 PM: Request for Determination of Applicability-- 11 Lauren Drive (Map 37-18-5):** Proposed replacement of a septic tank within the 100' buffer to BVW.

David Haynes, Environmental Consulting Agency, was present. He stated the house has a failed septic system. Across the street is a wetland, and due to the topography of the site, the only place to put in a new septic would be the original location from when the subdivision was first planned. He then stated the leech field is 88ft from the well. He stated the original installation predated the 100' setback bylaw, and unfortunately there is no other reasonably alternative. There is no sediment/erosion control plan due to the road and the steep incline separating them. He stated the area will be restored.

Dave Cotter stated when this project was being built, there was a soils evaluation completed that said the whole area is not good for long term septic use, so he is in favor of doing the replacement.

Dorothy Lawrence suggested putting some erosion control measures if there is large stockpiles of soil from digging up the previous septic. It was then stated that silt fences can be put up around catch basins.

**Dorothy Lawrence made a motion to close the public meeting for the RDA submitted for 11 Lauren Drive for activities associated with the replacement of a septic tank at 7:15 PM.**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk.**

**Motion carries 6-0.**

**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 Dave Cotter.**

**Motion carries 6-0.**

**No further discussion.**

**5. Minutes: 11/15/2022, 12/6/2022**

**Brenda Cole made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/15/2022 as written.**

**Motion seconded by Dave Cotter.**

**Motion carries 5-0-1 with Nick Zeo abstaining.**

**No further discussion.**

**Dave Cotter made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/6/2022 as written.**

**Motion seconded by Brenda Cole.**

**Motion carries 4-0-2 with Nick Zeo and Dorothy Lawrence abstaining.**

**No further discussion.**

**6. Violations/Enforcements:**

- a. **L65 Bennett St- Update**

The Agent stated the certified letter has been sent out. Hopefully by the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting there will be a response.

**7. New/Old Business:**

b. Forest Lake Cottages Site Visit Minutes:

It was stated a vote is not needed.

c. Gates St. Beaver Dam Update:

The Agent stated she spoke to the Roger Reed hatchery, and they hired some beaver trappers to come trap the nuisance beavers.

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

The Chairman reminded everyone of the event.

**8. Adjourn:**

**Motion made by Dorothy Lawrence to adjourn at 7:27pm.**

**Motion seconded by Nick Zeo.**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion carries 6-0.**