



# TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022 – 6:30 PM

**LOCATION: Town Hall Meeting Room  
4417 Main St Palmer MA**

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

Sarah Fortune,  
Conservation Agent

**Members Present:** Donald Blais, Jr.  
Brenda Cole  
Peter Izyk  
Nicholas Zeo  
Dave Cotter

**Members Absent:** Dorothy Lawrence  
Lucas McDiarmid

**Also Present:** Tina Pike

1. **Call to Order:** 6:30 PM – Donald Blais, Jr. (Chair)
2. **Chair Member Reports:**
3. **Review Mail/Phone Messages**
4. **Public Inquiries:**

- a. Discuss service project ideas for Adaptas

Adaptas reached out to the Agent stating that every June the company does a company-wide service project. The agent was asked for suggestions for around 200 people to complete. Peter Izyk stated that since June is Rivers clean up month, they could possibly work within the river. He stated there are tires in the water. The agent stated she did refer them to the Parks department as well. He also stated that they could work within the industrial park. There is paper refuse on the properties there. It was also suggested they could clean up along the roads and parking lots.

Dave Cotter suggested they could cut back the invasives within the Industrial Park, and along Town trails. The Agent then stated she would love to see some community gardens within the Town, and it is something to think about. Dave Cotter suggested to get permission from Sherwood Lumber for access on property.

- b. Complaint: Blocked Culvert on Smith & Beech St:

The Agent stated that there was a complaint on Smith St regarding a blocked culvert causing Stormwater runoff. She also stated that the paved hill on Smith St causes a "Stormwater highway". She did an inspection and the culvert is blocked with leaves. She sent the DPW an email to inform them but hasn't received a response. She will follow up.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

- a. 4/5/22
- b. 4/19/22

**Motion made by Barbara Cole to table the minutes from 4/5/2022 and 4/19/22 to 5/17/22 at 6:30pm.**

**Motion seconded by Dave Cotter.**

**No further discussion**

**Motion Caries 5-0-0**

- c. 4/6/21- executive session

**Motion made by Nick Zeo to approve the minutes from 4/6/2021.**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk.**

**No further discussion**

**Motion Caries 4-0-1 with Brenda Cole abstaining**

- a. 7/20/21- executive session

**Motion made by Nick Zeo to approve the minutes from 7/20/21.**

**Motion seconded by David Cotter.**

**No further discussion**

**Motion Caries 5-0-0**

## **6. Approval of Payables**

**Motion made by Brenda Cole to approve the payable in the amount of \$600.00 to fund a dumpster for Town Wide clean-up day from the General Expense Account**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**No further discussion**

**Motion Caries 5-0-0**

**Motion made by Peter Izyk to approve the payable in the amount of \$95.78 to Big Y for supplies for the Town Wide clean-up day from the General Expense Account**

**Motion seconded by Brenda Cole**

**No further discussion**

**Motion Caries 5-0-0**

## **7. Violations/Enforcement:**

- a. Midura Conservation Area: Unauthorized trail expansion work and wetland violations

The Agent stated she is making progress. It was found out that the PCC has no rights to white trail when on private property, meaning any violations or documentation taken on that portion have no merit. The Agent was told there was at one point an access agreement with a property owner that abuts the conservation area, but that documentation cannot be found, and might not even be legitimate. The Town Manager agreed with The Agent to send an abutters notice letting them know the Town is aware of the cutting, they are using both local and state law enforcement and that if caught the offender will face full penalties available. They

The Agent to send an abutters notice letting them know the Town is aware of the cutting, they are using both local and state law enforcement and that if caught the offender will face full penalties available. They are also asking for any information regarding the matter, which can be confidential. The agent also stated that she would like to reroute the White Trail off of private property.

It was also stated that at one point there were trail cams out there but one stopped working and the other was cut off the tree with bolt cutters and stolen.

It was also stated that there will be No Trespassing signs at "Smokey's Cabin"

b. 33 Olney Road – Buffer Zone violations

The Board of Health brought to the Agents attention that in 2019 a septic system was put in within 100' of a stream and it's bordering vegetative wetlands without PCC sign off. She stated that there is also an animal corral placed within buffer zone. It will be a joint effort between BOH and PCC due to other issues the BOH has with this property. An enforcement notice will be sent out tomorrow. She also requested their attendance at the 5/17 meeting, and BOH meets day before.

**8. Schedule of Public Hearings & Meetings:**

a. 7:00 PM Cont. Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP #256-0358 – 9 Fuller Road (Map 29-12):

The Chairman opened the hearing at 7:00pm. He stated the applicant is requesting a continuance due to the survey crew needing to GPS the median annual high water line (MAHWL) flags so the site plan can be revised.

**Motion made by Brenda Cole to continue the hearing for DEP # 256-0358 for the construction of two (2) single family home lots at 9 Fuller Road until 6/7/2022 at 7 PM**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**No further discussion**

**Motion carries 5-0-0**

**9. New/Old Business:**

a. Discuss Earth Day River & Town wide Cleanup: 4/23/2022 Lavolette Field

The Agent stated there were 50-60 volunteers. The cleanup filled a 30 yard dumpster with trash. She stated Source to Sea cleanup will be a Town wide cleanup. There were 10 different areas that were cleaned. Dave Cotter stated that there weren't many large items (mattresses, tires etc.) which was very encouraging. The Agent stated that the Scouts finished water sealing the gazebo as well as did some trash pickup and raking at First St. Nick Zeo stated PCC should reach out to local business owners regarding nip bottles, since they are such a large trash factor in Town and get them involved in Source to Sea cleanup in September.

b. Discuss hydraulic fuel leak on Smith Street on 4/20/2022

The Agent stated there was a hydraulic oil spill on April 20th, 2022. It was dealt with by the Agent, BOH, Fire Department, Emergency Manager. It was stated that it was taken care of quickly and efficiently.

c. Discuss 2022 compost bin & rain barrel program

It was discussed that there was massive issues with both the rain barrel and compost bin companies. It was decided that the PCC will circle back to the program next year.

d. Discuss 2022 C4R bac-T sampling program

The Agent asked Dave Cotter and Nick Zeo if they were willing to volunteer to sample sites. Both said yes.

e. Updates: FEMA HMGP & 604(b) Grant

The Agent stated there isn't a true update to the FEMA grant other than the sign was purchased. She will follow up with the consultant and see where he is at in the bidding process.

As far as the 604(b) grant, she stated the contract extension was approved. She will revise the scope once the contract is approved. She stated that two public info sessions are required.

f. Masterplan Implementation Committee (MIC)

The Agent stated the Town Manager is looking for a recommendation for a commissioner to sit on the newly formed committee. She stated she is unsure of meeting schedule, it shouldn't be too much of a commitment but requires formal vote. There was discussion regarding Nick Zeo serving as the PCC member. He stated that he thinks maybe the Chair should sit on the MIC. After more discussion it

**Motion made by Brenda Cole to nominate Nick Zeo to represent PCC in the MIC.**

**Motion seconded by Donald Blais.**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion Caries 4-0-1 with Nick Zeo abstaining.**

**10. Public Input:**

Tina Pike of 631 River St- She stated she will approach Terry Smith regarding water quality sampling assistance at Forest Lake.

**11. Next Meeting Date:**

Will be 5/17/22 at 6:30pm

**Motion made by Nick Zeo to adjourn at 7:40 PM**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion Caries 5-0-0**

Sincerely Submitted,  
Sarah A. Fortune  
Palmer Conservation Agent



# TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Meeting Documents

Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022 – 6:30 PM

**LOCATION: Town Administration Building  
4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069**

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

Sarah Fortune, Agent

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.	Minutes: 4/5/2022 (4/6/2021 & 7/20/2021 Executive Session)	Approval of Minutes	Retained in 2022 Minutes & Agendas
2.	Notice of Intent: DEP # 256-0359, 9 Fuller Road	Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0359, 9 Fuller Road
3.	Site Plans: DEP # 256-0359, 9 Fuller Road	-Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0359, 9 Fuller Road
4.	Stream Report: DEP # 256-0359, 9 Fuller Road	Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0359, 9 Fuller Road
5.	DEP File Comments: DEP # 256-0359, 9 Fuller Road	Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0359, 9 Fuller Road
6.	BVW Data Sheets: DEP # 256-0359, 9 Fuller Road	Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings	Retained in file for DEP # 256-0359, 9 Fuller Road
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
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12.			