



TOWN OF PALMER

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY MAY 7, 2013 @ 7:00 PM

Members Present: Robert Ring (Chair)
Donald Duffy
Peter Izyk
Dennis Cote
Angela Panaccione (Agent)

Members Absent: Matt Trybus

Also Present: Alex Marche (Life Scout)
William Mullen (Scout Leader)
Keith Terry (Sherman & Frydryk)
Travis Ward (Manchem, LLC)
Dave Cotter (Palmer Trail Committee)
Linda Perry (Palmer Trail Committee)
Zach Cooper (54 French Drive)
Tim Anthony (Water Street)
Sarah Brodeur (UMASS Student)

Meeting Opens: 7:00 PM – Robert Ring (Chair)

7:00 PM Administrative Matters: Internship Presentation – Alex Marche

Alex Marche, Life Scout, attended tonight's meeting with his troop leader William Mullen to present his proposal for his Eagle Scout Project. Alex will be working on trailhead maintenance and trail markings on Roundeau Rd to Bacon Rd, by the Sportsman club. Panaccione made copies of the trail maps, and supplies trail markers for Alex. Dave cotter (Trail Committee) commented on the need for a "No Unauthorized Motorized Vehicle" sign on Brown St, off Roundeau Rd. Ring stated he would contact the DPW and get signs indicating "No Unauthorized Motorized Vehicle". Alex will attend the next meeting to update the commission on his progress.

7:11 PM NOI DEP #256-0299: Manchem, LLC; Site Improvements – 21 Third Street

Travis Ward, Manchem, LLC, attendant tonight meeting with representative Keith Terry, Sherman and Frydryk, to present a proposal for site improvements including the construction of a 15,000 SF warehouse addition to building #21, a 900 SF warehouse addition to building #17, and reconfiguration of the truck turnaround behind the proposed

buildings at 21 Third Street, Bondsville, Palmer, MA. The proposed facility will require 10,100 SF of disturbance within the 100-foot wetland buffer zone. All work occurs in a previously disturbed area, and outside of the 50-foot buffer zone.

The applicant has already received planning board approval for the design, and modifications to the stormwater management have been included per planning boards' special conditions. The new stormwater structure will alleviate the current ponding around the loading docks and divert the water to a new infiltration and detention basin. Sedimentation will be treated in the detention basin. The area of the current slope of the land will be used for the retention basin and will be excavated down several feet. All soils excavated from site will be removed (trucked out). The work also entails minimal tree clearing in order to straighten out the tree line

Motion made by Don Duffy to close the hearing

Motion seconded by Pete Izyk

No further discussion – vote taken: 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Don Duffy to issue the orders of conditions

Motion seconded by Pete Izyk

No further discussion – vote taken: 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

7:20 PM Public Inquiry: Dave Cotter & Linda Perry – Palmer Trail Comm.

Dave Cotter and Linda Perry (Palmer Trail Committee) attended tonight meeting to request permission from the conservation commission to clean up and perform trail maintenance at the Midura Conservation Lands. Cotter stated he wishes to re-open and re-establish the trail present in the Conservation Lands. He is a state certified tree cutter, and he is licensed by the state to cut wood on public lands. Duffy stated the Commission spends so much time administering and enforcing the Wetlands Protection Act, it leaves little time for anything else (including upkeep of the town lands under Conservation Commission jurisdiction). Ring state anything the trail committee wished to do should be fine, and the commission would permit Cotter to use a motorized vehicle on the trails to remove brush and debris from the area.

7:40 PM EO/Violation: 54 French Drive – Zach Cooper

Zach Cooper, of 54 French Drive, attended tonight's meeting to request the current cease and desist order be lifted from his property so he could begin restoration work under the enforcement order previously issued. The Commission was going to allow work last fall, but the snow came and it was put off till spring. Cooper hired Pioneer Environmental as consultants and the restoration project was separated into pieces, under the assumption that once one part of the restoration was satisfactorily completed and other could begin. Currently, the land is prepped to install the first retaining wall.

Ring asked how far from the beach the masonry would occur, and if a certified mason was hired to complete the work. Cooper stated he was completing the installation of the

two retaining walls himself. The wall will be constructed of masonry blocks that clip together.

Duffy requested a copy of the installation guide/manual for the wall and Cooper stated he would email it to the commission prior to a site visit. Cooper also stated he the walls themselves would be s-curved, and be installed as to blend into the natural landscape. The footings have already been marked out for the Commissions review. The Commission scheduled a site visit for 9:15 AM on Friday May 17, 2013.

Motion made by Don Duffy to lift the cease and desist order at 54 French Dr, pending a satisfactory site visit

Motion seconded by Denis Cote

No further discussion – vote taken: 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

7:50 PM Administrative Matters: Internship Presentation – Sara Brodeur

Sara Bordeur, UMASS Student, attended tonight’s meeting to meet the commission and discuss a possible summer internship. She is interested in attending meeting and participating in conservation commission activities. She is taking a summer class, but will be available at the end of June to begin.

Don Duffy stated he would like to see a field inventory completed on wildlife and vegetation species present in the area. The Town owns a significant amount of land, especially primary woodlands the commission can harvest. He would like to know what species there are available for harvesting. He also expressed interest in setting up wildlife cameras to inventory animals present as well. Panaccione added the land inventory could also be incorporated into the Towns Open Space and Recreation Plan update.

8:05 PM Administrative Matters: Ordinance, Regulations, and Fee’s

The commission continued its discussion and revisions of the 1988 Wetlands Ordinance and regulations. The ordinance is outdated (passed 1988), and does not even include any Riverfront standards. The commission finalized the new draft version, and the Agent will mail out a hard copy for a final review.

Motion made by Don Duffy to finalize and approve the amended Wetlands Protection Ordinance and submit to the Town Manager and Town Council for review.

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk

No further discussion – vote taken: 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

8:20 PM Administrative Matters: Lamothe Update

Tim Anthony contacted the commission about a snapping turtle caught in the fencing. He also stated Lamothe was adding more structures to the area, which appeared to be rabbit cages. Furthermore, Laurie Anthony called the commission about Lamothe clearing and cutting trees in the area as well. The Palmer Police and the DEP were contacted about the tree cutting and violation of the enforcement order. Laurie Anthony also supplied the

commission with video of the tree clearing, which the commission reviewed. Due to the poor quality of the film, it was impossible to determine the extent and actual location of the clearing.

The court date scheduled for Friday May 10, 2013 has been postponed until Friday May 17, 2013. Tim McKenna, of Mass DEP will attend as well as Bob Ring and former Agent Glen Colburn.

8:30 PM Administrative Matters: Minute Approval - April 16, 2013

Motion made by Pete Izyk to approve the minutes from Tuesday April 16, 2013 as corrected

Motion seconded by Don Duffy

No further discussion – vote taken: 3-0-1 (Dennis Cote Abstains)

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 7 PM

8:35 PM Meeting Adjourned

Motion made by Don Duffy to adjourn

Motion seconded by Robert Ring

No further discussion – vote taken: 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Sincerely Submitted
Angela Panaccione, Agent