



# TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Palmer Town Building  
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conservation@townofpalmer.com

Tharyn Nein-Large, Chair  
Donald Duffy, Vice Chair  
Peter Izyk  
Sean O'Donnell  
Sarah Brodeur

Agent: Angela Panaccione

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## MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

**Members Present:** Tharyn Nein-Large (Chair)  
Donald Duffy (Vice Chair)  
Peter Izyk  
Angela Panaccione (Agent)

**Members Absent:** Sarah Brodeur  
Sean O'Donnell

**Also Present:** No public was present

**Meeting Opens:** 7:00 PM – Tharyn Nein-Large (Chair)

### 7:00 PM Notice of Intent (NOI) DEP # 256-0311: Syncarpha Bondsville, LLC – Landfill Solar

A Notice of Intent submitted by Tighe & Bond c/o Syncarpha Bondsville, LLC for the installation of a 4.97 MW ground-mounted photovoltaic solar facility on approximately 27 acres of the 36-acre parcel. The location of the proposed project is the Palmer Landfill, 181 Emery Street, and is also known as: Map 41-48.

Tharyn Nein-Large re-opened the public hearing and no members of the public were present.

The Applicant has requested a continuance until August 18, 2015 in order to wait for NHESP determination letter on whether the project as proposed would constitute a take of a species of concern. The Conservation Commission cannot close the public hearing until receipt of the NHESP letter.

The Agent also conducted a site visit today to confirm the delineations of the two BVW's on site, as well as the MAHWL of the two streams on the property. No issues were present and the Agent does not recommend any changes to the delineation.

**Motion made by Donald Duffy to continue the Public Hearing until Tuesday August 18, 2015 at 7:00 pm**  
**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**  
**No further discussion – vote taken: 3-0-0 – Motion Carries**

**7:05 PM Administrative Matters: Minute Approval – July 21, 2015**

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**Motion made by Donald Duffy to accept the minutes from Tuesday July 21, 2015 as written**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**No further discussion – vote taken: 3-0-0 – Motion Carries**

**7:10 PM Administrative Matters: Turley Publications Payable \$119.54**

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**Motion made by Donald Duffy to approve the payable to Turley Publications in the amount of \$119.54, for the payment of a legal advertisement for the August 18<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing on the proposed regulations from the bylaw revenue account**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**No further discussion – vote taken: 3-0-0**

**7:12 PM Administrative Matters: Mail, Reports, Projects, Monitoring, Enforcement, Site Visits**

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1. Ordinance Ch.8, Art. 1- Sale of Forest & Agricultural Products: The Commission discussed the procedure for increasing the amount of revenue that can be made off Forest cuts on Conservation Lands. Currently the limit is set at \$10,000. Donald Duffy stated this limit was set by the state legislature and we would have to petition the state to increase the limit. The Agent will contact other Commissions that do forest cuts on Conservation lands and see what their limit is, and how it was determined.
2. Site Visit Reports: The Agent supplied the Commission with her site visit reports from the last two weeks. There were several building permit sign offs. She also investigated two violation complaints: 1) A complaint from Lori Anthony on Blake Lamothe working in the floodplain. The Agent investigated the complaint and determined Mr. Lamothe was working within the scope of the approved restoration requirements. 2) A complaint of equipment in the river off Pleasant Street, Thorndike. The Agent investigated the complaint and could not see the violation from the road. She will investigate this matter further and report back at the next Commission meeting.
3. Water Street Water Quality Sample: The Agent has begun collecting water sample from Water Street field. The sampling is to inform watershed residents on the recreational health of the rivers in the basin. These first sites (3 on the Chicopee, 3 on the Quaboag) are in areas where paddling “Blue Trails” are being planned. Results are posted on “Is it Clean, a site in partnership with CRWC/PVPC. The first sample was collected on Thursday July 23, 2015 and the E. Coli level was 275.5. This was the highest level of all sites sampled, and is over the level for swimmable water but is well below the threshold for boating. Results are posted at <http://www.chicopeewatershed.org/> and there is a special thanks to the Commission for helping fund the sampling. The Agent has also added the link to the Commissions website as well.
4. MSMCP Brown Bag: The Agent will be hosting a brown bag lunch in Palmer for the Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals (MSMCP) on Wednesday November 18, 2015, from 11am-1pm, in the Police Station Conference room. Mike Callahan, owner and operator of Beaver Solutions LLC, (a Massachusetts-based company that specializes in the humane and long-term resolution of beaver / human conflicts), will present a workshop on Beaver Management and permitting under the Wetlands Protection Act. Mike will focus on ways to resolve beaver-related problems in a manner that coexistence with beavers because beavers are a Keystone species and have many benefits for both the environment and humans.

5. FY 2015 Annual Report: The Commission reviewed and accepted the FY2015 Annual Report. The Agent will submit it to the Town Manager to incorporate into the Annual Report.
6. Walktober: Dave Cotter, from Palmer Hikers, will lead a walk in Northwest Palmer, on Mountain Road and Rondeau Road from 1pm-4pm on Saturday October 17, 2015. It will be approximately a 4 mile walk and will include a talk on the history and early settlement of Palmer. The hike will begin on Rondeau Rd and parking will be on Mountain Road. The walk will be part of the Last Green Valley's Walktober event and will be advertised across Southern MA and Northern CT.

**Office Closed**: Tuesday August 11, 2015 (for training)

**Next Meeting Date**: Tuesday August 18, 2015 at 7pm

**Meeting Adjourned**: 7:47 PM

**Motion made by Donald Duffy to adjourn at 7:47 pm**

**Motion seconded by Peter Izyk**

**No further discussion – vote taken: 3-0-0– Motion Carries**

Sincerely Submitted,  
Angela C Panaccione, Conservation Agent