



TOWN OF PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 19th, 2023 – 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

Heidi Mannarino, Agent

Members Present: Donald Blais, Jr.
Peter Izyk
Dave Cotter
Nick Zeo

Members Absent: Dorothy Lawrence
Brenda Cole
Lucas McDiarmid

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

2. **Correspondence:**

a. Forest Cutting Plan: 280 Breckenridge Street

The Agent gives a brief description of the plan, noting that there will be 15 acres of harvest with 2 acres in a wetland area. Commissioner Dave Cotter asked what the wetland area consisted of where the harvest will take place. The Agent stated that the maps show a hydrologic connection that appears to be an intermittent stream.

No further discussion.

3. **Public Inquiries:** *There were no public inquiries.*

4. **Minutes:** 8/15/23

Nick Zeo made a motion to table the minutes of 8/15/23.

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk.

Motion carries 4-0-0.

No further discussion.

5. **Approval of Payables:** *There were no payables.*

6. **Signing of Documents (DOA, OOC, COC, Ext, Etc.):** *There were no documents to sign.*

7. **Violations & Enforcement:**

a. 9 Fuller Road DEP #256-0358 Update

The Agent stated that she had been working with the developers to stabilize this site. She noted that the erosion controls were corrected, and some additional measures have been added around the earth stockpiles. The slope behind the single-family home that was causing runoff issues was hydroseeded to expedite the stabilization of

September 19th, 2023

the area. The Agent stated that she will be monitoring the site after rain events to ensure that these controls are sufficient to contain sediment on the site.

No further discussion.

b. Iberia Foods

The Agent stated that both herself and Nicole Gauthier from the Palmer Board of Health were made aware that there was a liquid substance leaking from Iberia Food's trash compactor onto the sidewalk and into the nearby catch basin within the 200' Riverfront area. The Agent and N. Gauthier performed a site visit where they addressed the issue with the regional manager. The Agent stated that Iberia Food will be working with their landscaper to temporarily install wattles as controls to prevent further leakage from the site, remove the contaminated soil, loam and seed the area, and install a new compactor better suited to contain these liquids. She added that they plan on installing a drywell to capture any excess liquid there as well.

Brief discussion ensued.

8. New/Old Business:

a. MACC Conference 10/28

The Chairman gave a brief reminder of the upcoming MACC conference, and invited any interested Commissioners to reach out if they are able to attend and would like to be registered.

Brief discussion ensued.

b. C4R Water Sampling

The Agent stated that water sampling has concluded for 2023 and thanked all the volunteers who participated. She added that C4R will be doing recon of the river to help determine the best spots for kayak access on the Quaboag River.

Brief discussion ensued.

c. Biomap Presentation

The Agent informed the Commission that she has scheduled a zoom call with Mass Fish & Wildlife to discuss the free, online mapping "Biomap" tool that provides information on habitat quality, climate resilience, and other potentially pertinent ecological information. Commissioners were encouraged to join the call if they had interest in learning more about Biomap.

There was no further discussion.

d. Accessible Shore and Flyfishing Platform Dedication 9/28

The Agent reminded the Commission that there will be a dedication ceremony for the new flyfishing platform installed at the Swift River Greenbelt Conservation area on First Street. She added that this will take place on September 28th at 10:30 AM.

Commissioner Nick Zeo asked if the plaque had been installed yet, to which the Agent responded that she was not sure if it had been installed yet, but they had put in their signage at the parking area. Nick Zeo added that the fishing platform has enhanced the conservation area in general.

Donald Blais added that vandalism has been an issue on this property, and that he would like to remove some graffiti before the event.

9. Chair, Member, Committee & Agent Reports:

Nick Zeo briefly mentioned some recent items discussed by the Masterplan Implementation Committee including the feasibility study for the railroads, the water department, and a recent meeting with Conservation Agent Heidi Mannarino. He added that they are working on formulating recommendations for the Town Council to act upon.

Brief discussion ensued.

10. Hearings:

- a. 7:00pm: Notice of Intent—DEP #256-0370 Old Warren Road (Map 27 Parcel 4)

The Agent mentioned that the consultant could not make the site visit and requested that the hearing be continued to October 3rd, 2023.

Brief discussion ensued.

Dave Cotter made a motion to continue the public hearing for DEP #256-0370 to October 3rd, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Motion seconded by Nick Zeo.

Motion carries 4-0-0.

No further discussion.

11. Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 3rd 2023 at 6:30 PM in the Town Administration Building Meeting Room located at 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

12. Adjourn:

Motion made by Dave Cotter to adjourn at 7:07 PM.

Motion seconded by Peter Izyk.

Motion carries 4-0-0.

No further discussion.

Sincerely Submitted,

Heidi Mannarino

September 19th, 2023