

**Palmer Town Council
Community Forum
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2017**

1. Call to Order

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, May 15, 2017 was called to order at 6:30 pm by Town Council President Barbara Barry. Present were Councilors Robert Lavoie, Lorinda Baker, Barbara Barry, Mary Salzmann, Philip Hebert, Karl Williams and Matthew Lemieux.

2. Community Forum

The Town Council Community Forum was opened at 6:30 pm by B. Barry. She noted that the Council hoped to host three Community Forums during the year. The next forum would be in September. She stated that she hoped to use the community forums to generate ideas on how to move forward as a community.

Peter Blake stated that he is concerned with the number of trees which overhang the road throughout town. He noted specific concerns with trees that overhang Route 181.

B. Barry noted that trees that fall in roadway should be addressed by town and is looking for what the standing protocol is from the DPW if a tree falls in to the road. P. Blake suggested the town contact Pathfinder to have someone from the arborist program evaluate town trees. P. Hebert noted that National Grid takes care of trees that are near utility lines.

A resident of 17 Converse Street asked why trees that were planted as replacements in the tree belt on Converse Street were removed by the DPW. The Town Council was not aware of any trees that were removed from Converse Street. The resident was asked to provide additional information to the Town Manager's Office so that it could be looked into.

Bonnie Rathbone asked about status of the repair to the Laviolette Field bathrooms and various eyesores which were brought up at the previous meeting. B. Barry noted the Council is awaiting cost estimates for renovating the bathrooms. A Golas noted the town has received one cost estimate for the replacement in the range of \$25,000. Janice Fountain asked if portapotties are being considered for the field. M. Lemieux noted the future development of recreational opportunities at Laviolette Field and the importance of having a permanent restroom facility.

M. Salzmann stated that volunteers would be needed to maintain the bathrooms at Laviolette Field if the town invested in renovating them. Kenneth White asked if a vendor could be brought in to run a snack shop at Laviolette Field and maintain the restrooms. P. Hebert suggested that Pathfinder could provide a vendor truck.

Janice Garabedian stated that James Street and French Drive are in horrible condition and would like the pot holes filled. She stated that the current condition of the road is a safety issue. B. Barry noted that these may be private roads. B. Barry noted the town could possibly look at assessing a betterment to repair the road if the neighborhoods wanted to get together as a group to pursue this option.

Dan Belanger stated that he is concerned that the town denies potential commercial developments and is not business friendly. Discussion continued on the initiatives the town has taken to attract business and that the town must enforce zoning laws and building codes.

D. Belanger stated that it is not feasible to rely on volunteers to keep the Town of Palmer clean. M. Lemieux noted the success and large turnout for Palmer Clean-Up Day. M. Salzmänn stated that she believes that town needs to reinvent itself.

A question was raised by a resident regarding consolidating the Water Districts. Discussion continued on the authority of the Water Districts and that the Town does not have the authority to mandate the districts merge.

A question was raised on the number of faded crosswalks throughout town. Discussion continued on the number of illegal crosswalks throughout town and the steps being taken to bring them into compliance.

Discussion continued on the future reuse of Converse Middle School.

M. Marciniec noted that that the Planning Board is drafting revisions to the Town's parking and zoning ordinances to reflect the development goals of the Town. This was in response to a concern raised by Dan Belanger on required parking spaces at his business on Thorndike Street.

3. Adjournment

The Town Council Community Forum adjourned at 8:30 pm.