

**Palmer Town Council
Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2017**

1. Call to Order

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, April 3, 2017 was called to order at 6:30 pm by Town Council President Barbara Barry. Present were Town Manager Charles Blanchard, Councilors Robert Lavoie, Lorinda Baker, Barbara Barry, Mary Salzmann and Matthew Lemieux. Absent were Philip Hebert and Karl Williams.

2. Visitors Comments

Anne Miller of 60 Buckland Street addressed the Town Council regarding developing a downtown master plan for a potential rail station in downtown Palmer. She stated that she would like the town to adopt a master plan to preserve historic characteristics of the downtown area. She presented plans from the Town of Franklin, North Adams, Windsor Locks Ct, as well as the conceptual design of the Palmer Downtown developed by Northeast Realty. B. Barry asked if the PRA was looking at funding any development plan for the downtown area. C. Blanchard stated that a preliminary plan could be in the range of \$40,000 and he did not think that the PRA has sufficient funds for a study. B. Barry suggested investigating if the PRA could fund a downtown development study. Anne Miller stated that the Town should have a downtown plan to help guide development.

3. Community Meeting Discussion

B. Barry asked A. Golas to provide an update on the status of 22 Diane St. A. Golas stated that the property has been cleaned but the Board of Health and Police Department are still working to address the unregistered vehicles on the property.

B. Barry asked for an update on the condition of the Laviolette Field bathrooms. C. Blanchard stated that he had provided information to the Town Council on the cost of a vandalism proof facility to replace the existing building. B. Barry stated that she is concerned with security of the existing building. B. Barry stated that the current condition of the building is a liability to the town. L. Baker stated that she believes the existing bathroom needs to be demolished at Laviolette Field. B. Barry asked about the potential of a public private partnership to pay for the replacement of the bathroom. Discussion continued on maintenance of public bathroom facilities. B. Barry stated that a plan needs to be made by Town Manager to repair the bathroom. She requested that a prices be provided for renovating the existing bathroom and replacement of the existing building with a new building. C. Blanchard asked if the Town Council would make it a priority to replace the existing bathrooms with a vandalism proof building. B. Barry stated that a decision of whether or not to repair or replace the existing building would be made once the cost is determined.

B. Barry stated that the Town Council needs to look at reinvesting in the town's athletic fields. C. Blanchard stated that an increase in funding for maintenance has been appropriated in the FY18 Budget, however no major investment has been proposed for athletic field rehabilitation. B.

1 Barry stated there needs to be meeting between the DPW, Town Manager and Town Council to
2 make a plan for rebuilding the athletic fields. C. Blanchard suggested the Town Council form a
3 subcommittee to judge field conditions and make assessment of what needs to be done. M.
4 Lemieux stated that the DPW should be charged with making an assessment of the fields.
5

6 M. Salzmann stated that the Town Council needs to reestablish Chase Field back as a usable
7 athletic field. Discussion continued on future use of Chase Field. L. Baker stated that a plan
8 needs to be made to determine which athletic fields the town will invest in. B. Barry stated that
9 she would like to know what can be done cost effectively to improve the condition of the fields.
10 It was suggested that the town should invest in a water truck to irrigate all fields.
11

12 B. Barry asked if the DPW Director would be available to meet with the Town Council to discuss
13 the conditions of the Athletic Fields. C. Blanchard stated that he would meet with the DPW and
14 report to the Town Council in May.
15

16 C. Blanchard asked if the Town Council would like to allow a community garden to be started at
17 Chase Field. B. Barry stated that the Town Council does not have enough information to make a
18 decision at this time.
19

20 B. Barry asked for information regarding the Recreation Survey that was conducted. C.
21 Blanchard stated that the Open Space and Recreation Plan was developed as a result of that
22 survey and is available on website. The Town Council reviewed the OSRP for priorities identified
23 in the plan. B. Barry noted that the town is limited by funding and needs to look at what is
24 affordable.
25

26 M. Lemieux asked what is available for grants to improve Main Street businesses. B. Barry noted
27 that TIFs have been established for businesses moving into town or expanding.
28

29 M. Lemieux asked about the status of the Regional Animal Control agreement. C. Blanchard
30 stated that a Local Technical Assistance grant has applied for to review a regional animal control
31 agreement.
32

33 C. Blanchard stated that the town is currently in the process of reviewing the submitted
34 complete streets proposals and an engineer would be chosen to perform a prioritization plan.
35

36 B. Barry stated that another Community Forum would be held in May. A reminder call to all
37 residents would be sent out for the meeting.
38

39 **4. Adjournment**

40
41 Motion to Adjourn made by M. Lemieux, seconded by L. Baker. Motion passed 5-0 at 8:15pm
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