

**Palmer Town Council
Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2016**

1. Roll Call

The Palmer Town Council Meeting of Monday, August 8, 2016 was called to order at 6:30 pm by Town Council President Barbara Barry. Present were Acting Town Manager Andrew Golas, Councilors Lorinda Baker, Karl Williams, Philip Hebert, Barbara Barry, Mary Salzmann and Matthew Lemieux. Councilor Robert Lavoie was absent.

2. Visitors Comments

Bob Haveles of the Palmer Events Planning committee addressed the Town Council regarding the Celebrate Palmer event on August 20th. He stated that the committee's goal is to be able to cap the night with fireworks. He thanked all those who have contributed at this point to make the event possible. B. Haveles stated that they are looking for contributions from residents to fund the fireworks at the end of the event. He stated that the committee will need to raise \$4,000 by August 13th to host a fireworks display.

B. Haveles stated that Palmer Events Planning is looking to host a community ball in the near future. Their goal would be to rent a tent and hold a semi-formal event on Legion Field. Currently they are looking at September 10th as a possible date for the event. Discussion continued on where residents could send contributions to support Palmer Events Planning events.

David Flebotte of 255 Boston Road and Deborah Mackey of 257 Boston Road addressed the Town Council. D. Flebotte stated that residents in their area have been unsuccessful in obtaining service from Comcast. He stated that they are looking for assistance from the Town Council in obtaining service by working with Comcast to run cable service to their location. D. Mackey described her experience dealing with the Comcast salesmen and construction team. A. Golas explained that there is a disconnect between those trying to sell the service to them and the reality that they are not a serviceable area. Discussion continued on the availability of Comcast on Boston Road. A. Golas stated that the Town Manager's Office had not been approached by Comcast to discuss expansion of service and all attempts to contact them at this point had been unsuccessful. The Town Manager's office would continue to try to contact Comcast to find out why they have been trying to sell service to residents who are in unserviceable areas and see if there are any plans to expand service to their area.

B. Haveles stated that M-Pact will be sponsoring a history booth at Celebrate Palmer. They will be looking to record residents telling old stories about the town and share their own experiences in Palmer. He stated that they will be in need of volunteers to help set up various attractions.

3. Meeting Minutes

None

1 **4. Old Business**

2 **a. Recognition of Service – Donald Duffy**

3 B. Barry thanked Donald Duffy for his 37 years of service working for the Conservation
4 Commission. D. Duffy addressed the Town Council. He stated that he is proud of the
5 work done during his time on the Commission, including taking five miles of abandoned
6 old dirt roads and 400 acres of open space and preserving them as conservation lands.
7 He is also proud of the various regulations they have passed to protect the town’s
8 wetlands. He encouraged residents to volunteer their time to help make Palmer a better
9 place.

10 **b. Vote - Community Preservation Act Adoption (2017-01)**

11 The Community Preservation Act Ordinance was read by B. Barry. *Motion to adopt the*
12 *Community Preservation Act as read by B. Barry, seconded by M. Lemieux.*

13 P. Hebert proposed an amendment to the Ordinance to remove the senior low income
14 exemption from the Community Preservation Act. P. Hebert stated that he didn’t
15 believe that those who would benefit from the CPA should be excluded from paying
16 towards it. B. Barry stated that if the ordinance is amended, the council would need to
17 go back through the re-hearing process. She stated that the Council would need to hold
18 three special meetings in order to pass the amended CPA.

19 M. Salzmann stated that she is concerned that including the exemption could swing the
20 vote for the CPA. B. Barry noted that including the senior low income from the CPA was
21 recommended by the Open Space and Recreation Committee. P. Hebert stated that he
22 did not think that the exclusions were fair to those who will pay for the CPA.

23 *Motion to amend the Community Preservation Act by striking the language regarding*
24 *the low income senior exemption was made by P. Hebert, seconded by K. Williams.*

25 *Motion failed 3-3 with P. Hebert, M. Salzmann and K. Williams in favor of the motion.*

26 *Motion on the table to adopt the CPA as read failed 3-3 with B. Barry, L. Baker and M.*
27 *Lemieux in favor.*

28 **c. Relocation of John King Marker**

29
30 B. Barry noted that a proposal had been made to move the John King Homestead
31 Marker from its current location at the Corner of Stone Street to the area of the Grotto
32 near the Olmstead Park Grotto adjacent to the Steaming Tender. P. Hebert stated that
33 he wanted to wait until after all of the proposed construction in the area had been
34 completed before the town approved moving the marker in order to avoid damaging
35 the marker. M. Salzmann stated that she agreed that the marker shouldn’t be moved
36 until after construction at the site is complete. B. Barry read a note she received from R.
37 Lavoie stating that he would prefer that construction be completed at the site prior to
38 the relocation of the marker and an event should be held to re-dedicate the marker. B.
39 Barry stated that she agreed with the consensus that the marker shouldn’t be moved
40 until after construction at the site is complete.

1
2 Nelson Pease addressed the Town Council regarding the proposal to move the John King
3 Marker. He stated that the only construction that had to take place at the site was the
4 installation of a brick sidewalk. He felt that waiting until the end of construction to place
5 the stone could damage the sidewalk. Discussion over the proposal to move the John
6 King marker would be continued until a future meeting.
7

8 **5. New Business**

9 **a. 1st Reading – Zone Change for 8 Contiguous Parcels on Park Street from General** 10 **Business to Highway Business**

11 Proposal to change the zoning of (Parcel 58/90 1315 Park Street), (Parcel 56/89 – 1313
12 Park Street), (Parcel 56/88 – 1307-1311 Park Street), (Parcel 56/92 – 0 Park Street),
13 (Parcel 56/93 Park Street), (Parcel 56/86 – 2 Allen Street), (Parcel 56/87 4 Allen Street),
14 from General Business to Highway Business was read by B. Barry. A letter from the
15 Planning Board supporting the Zone Change was read by B. Barry. A. Golas noted that
16 the Planning Board brought forward the proposed zone change after the parcels
17 adjacent to this area had been rezoned to Highway Business from General Business.

18 **b. Town Council Subcommittee Appointments**

19 B. Barry stated that appointments to Town Council subcommittees had been made and
20 a copy of the subcommittees had been provided to each councilor. She gave a quick
21 overview of each subcommittee appointment.

22 M. Salzmann asked what the process would be to add a subcommittee. B. Barry noted
23 that M. Salzmann suggested forming a negotiation subcommittee. She stated that a
24 negotiation subcommittee with a seat at the bargaining table may be a violation of the
25 separation of powers vested in the town charter. A. Golas stated that he would follow
26 up with the Town Attorney to provide a formal opinion.

27 **c. Warrant for Presidential Primary**

28
29 *Motion to sign the warrant for the September 8th Presidential Primary Election by P.*
30 *Hebert, seconded by M. Salzmann. Motion passed 6-0.*
31

32 **6. Subcommittee Reports**

33 Town Council Rules - M. Salzmann asked for an update on the Town Council Rules. A. Golas
34 noted that clarification from the Town's Attorney on specific questions was received on Friday
35 and had not been reviewed. A final draft of the Town Council Rules would be presented at the
36 September Meeting.

37 300th Anniversary Committee – L. Baker stated that the Ice Cream Social, which had been
38 canceled due to inclement weather, would be held August 11th on the Three Rivers Common. If
39 weather was an issue, the event would be moved to Pulaski Park.

1 L. Baker stated that the 300th Anniversary Committee has raised \$27,000 through donations. The
2 committee has a goal of raising \$50,000 for the parade. She hoped that more residents would
3 consider making donations. The Committee is currently trying to schedule more bands and
4 would like to schedule a flyover for the parade. L. Baker noted that one of the best-selling
5 fundraiser items has been the 300th Anniversary t-shirts.

6 Ordinance Subcommittee - B. Barry asked that the Ordinance Subcommittee meet to finalize
7 many of the proposed ordinances that had been sent to them for consideration.

8 **7. Town Manager’s Report**

9 A. Golas stated that after a survey had been conducted on the desire for town wide trash
10 collection and single stream recycling, the Town would not be moving forward with the proposal
11 for town wide trash collection. He noted some of the opposition to the proposal and lower
12 projected participation that originally anticipated would make the move to town wide trash
13 collection unlikely to succeed.

14 A. Golas stated that the Town of Warren had recently voted to support a regional transfer
15 station which would be open to Palmer Residents. Additional information regarding the details
16 of the transfer station will follow.

17 A. Golas stated that the Planning Board is currently reviewing a Complete Streets Policy which
18 was presented by DPW Director Gerry Skowronek. A final copy of the policy will be presented to
19 the Town Council for adoption.

20 A. Golas stated that Veteran’s Agent Deborah Shilaikis has resigned from her position and will be
21 moving to Colorado. Former Sturbridge Veterans’ Agent Tom Chamberland will be filling in the
22 office until a full time Veteran’s Agent is hired.

23 **8. Misc. Correspondence**

24 B. Barry reminded everyone of the upcoming Ice Cream Social on August 11th. She noted that
25 she hopes that more people would attend the Recreation Department’s Summer Concert Series.
26 Discussion continued on ways to inform residents of events throughout town.

27 **9. Councilor’s Roundtable**

28 None

29 **10. Adjournment of Formal Session**

30 Motion to adjourn made by K. Williams, seconded by M. Lemieux. Motion passed 6-0 at 8:10
31 PM.