

**Palmer Planning Board
Planning Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 1st, 2024**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Michael Marciniac called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM on Monday, April 1st, 2024, in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Vice Chairman Norman Czech, Clerk Shelby Lamothe, Members Scott Day and Michael Dee were present. Also present was Town Planner Heidi Mannarino recording minutes.

Public Hearings:

New Business:

- ***Discussion: Rick Licht, Licht Environmental Design LLC***

Old Business:

Board Member Comments:

Town Planner Update:

Next Meeting Date: April 22nd, 2024

II. New Business:

Discussion: Rick Licht, Licht Environmental Design LLC

M. Marciniac gave a brief overview of the purpose of this meeting. He stated that the Board has three new members since the approval of the Forest Lake Seasonal Cottage project and would like to hear an update on progress since the issuance of a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval. He clarifies that the Special Permit will not lapse as long as the applicant is exercising their rights under the permit and working to move forward with the project.

Rick Licht of Licht Environmental Design, lead engineer on the Seasonal Cottage project, gives a brief background on the project noting that they have been working for over 5 years to move the project forward.

R. Licht gave a slideshow presentation summarizing the project.

R. Licht ended the presentation by adding that the project will require approximately 1.8 miles of water line to tie in this project to existing infrastructure owned by the Bondsville Water District. Current engineering plans are at 80% design for this connection.

Phil Hebert of the Palmer Town Council discussed that a waterline would benefit abutting properties currently using well water, mentioning the landfill that is in proximity to the project. P. Hebert recalled observing contamination in a brook near said landfill. M. Marciniac added that the Town tests the wells within a set radius of the landfill due to a DEP order.

David Lavallie of the Bondsville Fire & Water Commission came forward to speak on existing infrastructure. He stated that the Commission has identified funding for a new water tank from the

Massachusetts Drinking Water Revolving Fund. D. Lavallie gave details on the location and size of the tank and spoke about future collaboration with Three Rivers & Thorndike Water Districts.

M. Marciniac asked how many customers Bondsville Water District serves, to which D. Lavallie responded about 430. Michael Dee asked how often the rates are raised, and D. Lavallie stated that they raised their rates in 2016.

Bob Flagg, of Bondsville & Thorndike Water Districts, voiced his concerns about public health and safety in the Town. He said he believes the landfill should not be the responsibility of the water districts. B. Flagg recalls that former Town Manager Ryan McNutt promised to dedicate some ARPA funding to installing a waterline.

S. Day asked if contamination exists on Emery Street, to which M. Marciniac clarified that the landfill was leaking 25 years ago but was capped. He continued stating that if the testing shows well contamination, the Town will be responsible for installing a waterline.

Alan Marks, representing the Seasonal Cottage project, returned to the original question about the status of the project, describing how they are still acting on their permit by investigating bringing water to the site, and projecting similarities with its sister project in Arundel, Maine. A. Marks discussed the benefits he believes this project will bring to the Town.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM was made by M. Dee, seconded by S. Day. Motion passed 5-0.



Shelby LaMothe, Clerk