

Buckland, MA Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2023

Via Zoom

AGENDA

- Open Meeting
- Review Previous Meeting Minutes
- RDA for town's salt shed at 2 Sears St.
- RDA for construction of garage at 8 Kendrick Rd.
- RDA for construction of garage at 63 Bray Rd.
- NOI for Buckland Riders Snowmobile -installation of replacement bridge, trail maintenance, and trail rerouting.
- Other Business that has appeared in the last 48 hours
- Public Comment
- Close Meeting

Attendees

Kathy Lytle, chair  
Alex Meade, member  
Steve Howland, member  
Mary Knipe, member  
Jim Eagan, member  
Emily Stockman, Stockman Associates LLC, applicant's representative  
Heather Butler, Buckland Town Administrator  
Erika Crocker, applicant  
Dennis Sevene, applicant

1. Chair Kathy Lytle opened the meeting at 6:31 pm
2. RDA for town's salt shed at 2 Sears St.

Town Administrator Heather Butler presented the plans for the town's proposal to consolidate sanding/salting operations at 2 Sears St. with a timeline of initiating the work during the current construction season.

Questions/Comments from the Conservation Commission:

- Members Alex Meade and Jim Eagan visited the site. There have been two different assessments, one indicating the possible presence of an intermittent stream. To confirm this, access would need to be granted by a neighboring property owner, who has declined to provide such access. Therefore, the stream remains unconfirmed.
- After the concrete pad is constructed, would there be additional excavation required? Ms. Butler responded that all footings will be done at the time of the concrete pad's installation.

- Will any more of the area be paved? Ms. Butler responded that no more area will be made impervious.
- Will there be any kind of wall installed? Ms. Butler noted a kneewall on the plans, intended to prevent leaching of materials, and noted the new installation will be a vast improvement over the conditions at the current facility on Conway St.

Member Meade moved that the proposed project be given a Negative 3 Determination, with the "usual" conditions for erosion control, posting, access, etc., and that if any additional, unanticipated requirements are needed for the installation of the tent covering, the Town must return to the Conservation Commission. Member Howland seconded the motion; all present voted in favor.

3. RDA for construction of garage at 8 Kendrick Rd.

Applicants Erika Crocker and Dennis Sevene reviewed their proposal to construct a 24' x 24' garage. Members Meade and Howland made a site visit. No water features are on the map of the property; however, there is evidence of an intermittent stream, wetlands and a spring. Initial plans for the project did not indicate what was intended to protect those features. The proposed construction is located in a buffer area, and plans now call for a silt fence and straw bales between the construction and resource areas.

Member Meade moved that the proposed project be given a Negative 3 Determination, with the "usual" conditions for erosion control, posting, access, etc.. Member Howland seconded the motion; all present voted in favor.

Member Meade will email the documentation to the applicants, and file materials at Town Hall. Member Howland will indicate Conservation Commission approval for the building permit application through FRCOG.

4. RDA for construction of garage at 63 Bray Rd.

Member Meade reviewed the proposal to construct a garage on a site where there is evidence of an intermittent stream.

Member Meade moved that the proposed project be given a Negative 3 Determination, with the "usual" conditions for erosion control, posting, access, etc.. Member Howland seconded the motion; all present voted in favor.

5. NOI for Buckland Riders Snowmobile - installation of replacement bridge, trail maintenance, and trail rerouting.

Emily Stockman, Stockman Associates LLC walked the Commission members through the NOI for the Buckland Riders Snowmobile Club. Member Howland stated for the record that he is an applicant for this item, and would not be

participating in any deliberations or votes on the application. Members Meade and Eagan made a site visit to the property.

Key points highlighted by Ms. Stockman:

- Project involves two separate properties owned by the Rose family, with some restrictions placed by DCR to provide public access
- Overall the project involves 2 re-routes and a new bridge to be located upstream of the existing bridge for a potentially multi-use trail connecting Wilder Homestead to the top of Goodnow Rd.
- The proposed re-routes are intended to avoid wetland areas
- To minimize impact on the brook, minimal cutting of vegetation (saplings and shrubs) will be done, and erosion control will be placed between the brook and the bank
- For the bridge itself, there will be minor excavation for the footings; steel beams will be placed on pressure-treated supports prior to decking. The bridge will be 24.7' wide, giving the brook "a lot of room to breathe"
- Materials will be prepared at a staging area or off-site
- Because the project is being funded through grants, DCR submitted a support letter and requires an additional level of review; a site visit with DCR officials has been scheduled.

Questions/Comments from the Conservation Commission

- What type of erosion controls? 12" compost tubes and/or silt fencing
- What about mowing/logging questions in the DEP comment letter?  
Working with the Franklin Land Trust, there is now a cutting plan in place; no longer an issue.

Member Meade moved that an Order of Conditions be drafted for File # 121-0112 based on the discussions at this meeting; member Mary Knipe seconded the motion; chair Lytle and members Meade, Knipe and Eagan voted in favor of the motion; member Howland abstained.

6. Other Business that has appeared in the last 48 hours  
None other business.

7. Public Comment

Ms. Stockman reported she had been retained by Janet Sinclair in re: 0 Charlemont Rd., and has been asked by Ms. Sinclair to evaluate the property's frontage in light of challenges to maintaining rural roads. Ms. Stockman will be inviting members of the Conservation Commission, town officials, and highway department employees to an open discussion on June 29th to explore practices that could be implemented here and elsewhere. Member Howland expressed his willingness to attend. Commission members noted that if Mark Stinson were to be invited, the invitation would need to be initiated by the Commission.

8. Close Meeting

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Member Howland made a motion to adjourn the meeting; member Meade seconded the motion; all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Alison Cornish, Boards Clerk

### Documents Referenced

RDA, 2 Sears St., Buckland

RDA, 8 Kendrick Rd., Buckland

RDA, 63 Bray Rd., Buckland

NOI, Buckland Riders Snowmobile Club, Buckland