

**Buckland Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
April 27, 2021 5:30 p.m.  
Meeting Via Zoom**

**Appointments**

5:30 p.m. - Mosquito Spraying, Board of Health

6:00 p.m. - Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership, Henry Art, MTWP Chair

**Agenda Items**

FY22 Budget, Free Cash, Continued

CARES Expenditures

Appointment - Zoning Board of Appeals, Alternate

**Documents to Sign**

Minutes April 13, 2021

MVP Grant, Clesson Brook Watershed, Letter of Support

**Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting**

**Select Board Member Concerns**

**Town Administrator's Report**

**Public Comment**

**Volunteer Recognition**

**Announcements**

**Attendees**

Dena Willmore - Select Board Chair

Barry Del Castilho - Select Board Member

Zachary Turner - Select Board Member

Heather Butler - Buckland Town Administrator

Marti Taft Ferguson - Buckland Board of Health

Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk

James Sullivan - Falls Cable

Clinton Phillips - Resident

Janet Sinclair - Resident

Hank Art - MTWP Chair

**Meeting**

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m by Ms. Willmore, Chair.

**Appointments**

5:30 p.m.- Mosquito Spraying, Board of Health - Ms. Ferguson of the Buckland Board of Health gave an overview of the state's mosquito spraying policy and the responsibility of each municipality to opt in or out of the spraying. The Select Board is the governing body with the authority to opt out by the May 15 deadline. If the town does opt out, they must have an alternate mosquito control policy in place; if they do not, Buckland is automatically opted in with no choices. Board discussion followed with Ms. Butler screen sharing FAQ's regarding spraying. At 5:00 p.m. on May 11, immediately preceding the Select Board meeting, there will be a public meeting regarding spraying, and the BOH's alternative mosquito mitigation plan.

6:00 p.m. - Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (MTWP), Henry Art, MTWP Chair - Mr. Art gave a power point presentation which is available as an attachment to this meeting on the Town of Buckland website. He explained the timeline for joining the partnership, the advantages of a collaborative relationship, and grant opportunities available for joining. He reported that from Western Franklin County to the New York border there are 16 members, plus Hawley (voted to join and membership on hold until August 2022). Buckland, Colrain, Florida, and Savoy have not joined.

Ms. Ferguson of the Board of Health asked if the legislation had changed, noting that five years from enactment of the MTWP would be 2023, the next opportunity for membership. Board discussion followed regarding timelines (grant applications and membership), grant opportunities, and Board of Health opposition to MTWP. Ms. Willmore proposed that the option to join or not be put on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for residents to decide. Ms. Sinclair expressed her hopes that the Select Board does indeed bring to Town Meeting, citing her reservations regarding MTWP. The need for time to educate residents/voters was addressed.

Mr. Art will have a definitive answer by the day after this meeting, stating whether the timeline for membership is 2022 or 2023. That answer will determine when the Select Board addresses membership on the Town Meeting Warrant, this year or next.

Ms. Willmore thanked Ms. Ferguson and Ms. Sinclair for their contributions to the discussion.

**Agenda Items**

FY22 Budget, Free Cash, Continued - Ms. Butler screen shared her recommendations for expenditures of free cash (see Free Cash attachment for this meeting on town website). After a brief discussion, Ms. Willmore moved to accept the recommendation for the use of free cash, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes.

Following discussion on Town Clerk's salary, Mr. Turner moved to set the salary at \$23/hour for FY22, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes.

CARES Expenditures - Ms. Butler presented the starting CARES funding, balance remaining, and proposed expenses. Recommendations were made for Buckland to share expenses with Shelburne for HVAC system at Arms Library; \$10,000 earmarked for the Buckland Library for HVAC, outside tables, and other expenses involved in re-opening; and \$7,675 for the Buckland Recreation Committee to help cover costs due to changes in personnel/camper ratio (more personnel, few campers per COVID regulations); camp tuitions cannot cover expenses. Other town services already in place such as port-a-potties are factored into the CARES budget, and will continue to be covered. Mr. Del Castilho moved to approve the recommendations for use of CARES funds, seconded by Mr. Turner. Brief Board discussion followed with Mr. Del Castilho stating his concerns that the Recreation Area camps be adequately covered ensuring the kids have a great camp experience. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes.

Appointment - Zoning Board of Appeals - Ms. Willmore suggested that the Board wait to appoint the ZBA alternate until all town appointments are reviewed. Letters and emails were recently sent to board/committee members asking who will/will not be seeking reappointment.

### **Documents to Sign**

Minutes, April 13, 2021 - Mr. Turner moved to approve, seconded by Ms. Willmore. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes.

MVP Grant, Clesson Brook Watershed, Letter of Support - Ms. Butler explained the grant application for \$160k to conduct watershed assessment of Clesson Brook. Letters of support are sought from Mohawk Trail Regional School, Great River Hydro, and the Buckland Select Board. Mr. Turner moved for Ms. Willmore as Chair to sign the letter of support, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Brief Board discussion followed regarding advantages the grant money will afford and the process to raise matching funds. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes.

**Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting** - There were none.

### **Select Board Member Concerns**

June meeting agenda was addressed due to availability of Select Board members. The second meeting of the month will be held on June 29 instead of June 15.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Ms. Butler reported on: overview of the American Rescue Plan Act, and the expenditures allowed for the monies from this legislation; the status of the Buckland Recreation Camps, stating that registration forms have gone home with the children; Marble Filming has finished, with positive feedback from local businesses and some concerns from residents regarding inconvenience during filming; ZBA meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening has been cancelled at the request of the applicant,

Mr. Andrews; The Open Space and Recreation Committee has identified gaining access to the Deerfield River from the Buckland side as a priority, and has formed a subcommittee to explore options; one more hearing to occur on May 5 to present the new version of the Dog Bylaw, addressing questions raised at last hearing.


**Public Comment** - No specific issue was presented at this time, but Marti Ferguson, Clinton Phillips and Janet Sinclair participated in discussions on mosquito spraying and the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership.


**Volunteer Recognition** - Recreation Committee members were recognized for their efforts in getting the Recreation Area and Cricket Field ready for summer camps/activities.

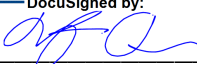
**Announcements** - A reminder was given for the town election to be held May 4, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., upstairs in the Buckland Town Hall using the William Street entrance. With no further announcements or business, Mr. Del Castillo moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Del Castillo, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, May 11, 2021

**Signed:**

Dena Willmore DocuSigned by:  
  
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Barry Del Castillo DocuSigned by:  
  
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Zachary Turner DocuSigned by:  
  
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