

**Buckland Select Board
Meeting Minutes
December 28, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Buckland Town Hall**

Listing of Topics

Appointments

5:30 p.m. - Historical Society, fundraising campaign, David Parella
6:00 p.m. - Zoning Legislation - Janet Sinclair

Agenda Items

- > Police Department - shared staffing update
- > Treasurer/Collector's resignation
- > Senior Center District Agreement update
- > Personnel Policy
- > Lighting Committee, review updated draft mission
- > 50 Conway Street, abutters request
- > Covid-19 Testing Kits distribution plan

Documents to Sign

- > Firehouse Studios Licensing Agreement
- > Minutes December 14, 2021

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: Transfer Station open Sunday

Attendees

Zachary Turner - Select Board Chair
Clinton Philips - Select Board Member
Barry Del Castilho - Select Board Member - Absent
Heather Butler - Buckland Town Administrator
Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk
Dana McNay - Falls Cable
Michael McCusker - Buckland Historical Society
David Parella - Buckland Historical Society
Justin Lively - Resident

Marilyn Kelsey - Resident

Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Zackary Turner, Chair, at 5:32 p.m.

Appointments

5:30 p.m. - Historical Society, fundraising campaign, David Parella - Michael McCusker, Historical Society President, began the presentation with an overview of the Historical Society property and plans to restore the barn; the history of the barn and its architectural significance were emphasized. Each of the Board members was handed a prospectus on the project. Mr. McCusker and Mr. Parella outlined the procedure for dismantling and reconstructing the structure. They presented an interesting and informative video about the barn and pending project, and asked if Board members would please sign a letter of support for the Historical Society moving forward in pursuing a Massachusetts Cultural Council Capital Grant for the estimated \$400,000 restoration of the barn. Mr. Phillips moved to sign, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. A fundraising letter from the Historical Society regarding the barn, proposed project, and funding is available on the town website as an attachment to this meeting.

6:00 p.m. Zoning Legislation, Janet Sinclair - Janet Sinclair addressed the board about pending legislation affecting zoning for solar installations. Ms. Sinclair explained the origins of the legislation and its relevance to local government and zoning. She stated that it is not a pro or anti- solar issue but one of towns' sovereignty and strength of their zoning bylaws. There was discussion between Ms. Sinclair and Board members; she answered questions and reported that draft legislation will be ready in mid-January.

Agenda

Police Department, shared staffing update - Discussion is continuing and is on the Town of Shelburne Select Board Agenda for January 3, 2022.

Treasurer/Collector's Resignation - Lisa Blackmer, Buckland Treasurer/Tax Collector is resigning from her position effective January 28, 2022 to accept employment in the North Berkshire School Union as their Business Manager. Mr. Turner gave an overview of the job she is vacating and process for applying. Ms. Butler described Ms. Blackmer as a valued member of Team Buckland. Discussion followed on posting the Treasurer/Collector position and Mr. Turner moved for Ms. Butler to proceed with advertising, seconded by Mr. Phillips. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Senior Center District Agreement, update - The next meeting is January 5, 2022. Mr. Del Castilho was not present for further reporting/discussion.

Personnel Policy - After a brief Board discussion, Mr. Phillips moved to accept the Personnel Policy Addition proposed by Zachary Turner, with the correction of "Board of Selectman" being replaced with "Select Board". Mr. Turner seconded the motion and vote in favor was unanimous. The policy is available as an attachment to this agenda.

Lighting Committee , review updated draft mission - Mr. Turner recapped the function of the Lighting Advisory Committee which is an appointed body serving in an advisory capacity. He suggested one edit in paragraph 3, removing the words “a resident impacted by exterior lighting” and instead inserting “the Select Board”. Ms. Sinclair gave her perspective on reasons for organizing such a committee. Further discussion followed. Mr. Turner moved to approve the Buckland Outdoor Lighting Advisory Committee with the edit he suggested earlier in the discussion. Mr. Phillips seconded, and vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. The draft for the Light Committee charge is available on the town website as an attachment to this meeting.

50 Conway Street, abutters request - Justin Lively explained a barn building project for which he will be the contractor. Citing the proximity of the current barn to a shed on town property and the problems that creates, he presented a two-part proposal. The proposal addresses the removal of the current barn, the shed on town property, and the use of that town property as a staging area for the new barn. His letter outlining this is available on the town website as an attachment to this meeting. Ms. Butler stated that while working on town property, the town will not be held liable for any mishaps. She will have Buckland’s insurance company review the proposal. Mr. Turner requested that the project not commence until the threat of winter storms has passed. Mr. Turner moved to approve Mr. Lively’s offer barring any reservations by the town’s insurance company. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, and reminded that the project must be done in cooperation with Jake Purinton, Highway Foreman. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Covid-19 Testing Kit distribution plan - The Town of Buckland received 450 test kits. The Board of Health held a pop up event in the Mohawk Trail parking lot on December 24 at which kits were distributed. Kits were sent home from school, some given to Dr. Warner’s practice and the Senior Center, and will also be available at Town Hall. Ms. Butler stated that the town is going to ask FRCOG for more testing kits. Mr. Phillips inquired about the use of ARPA funds to purchase kits; Ms. Butler replied that although they would qualify as an ARPA expenditure it doesn’t justify the amount of time and paperwork involved.

Documents to Sign

Firehouse Studios Licensing Agreement - Tabled.

Minutes December 14, 2021 - To be reviewed at next meeting.

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

Mr. David Conlon , a teacher at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School (BSE), wrote the Select Board seeking their approval of his request to also work part-time as a night custodian at BSE. He has been approved by the State Ethics Commission, but needs approval of all nine school district towns. Mr. Phillips moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

To correct an accounting issue caused by an excise tax which was paid once, but entered twice, Michael Kociela emailed Ms. Butler requesting to reduce the "accounting General Ledger balance for the Levy Year 2017 Motor Vehicle Excise Tax receivable by \$170.21 to match the Treasurer receivable balance." Mr. Turner so moved, seconded by Mr. Phillips. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Fire Chief Herb Guyette had requested that the Select Board Chair sign a letter of support for the Service Zone Plan developed by the Shelburne Falls Fire District and the Buckland Fire District. Mr. Turner so moved, seconded by Mr. Phillips. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Josh Simpson submitted a letter to commend Dan Fleuriel and his department for repairing a blockage causing standing water in Mr. Simpson's building. After several failed attempts to resolve the issue, it was Dan and his team that solved the problem. Mr. Simpson commended them and is most grateful.

Select Board Member Concerns - No concerns were expressed.

Town Administrator's Report - Ms. Butler reported that she had worked with Acting Chief Gilmore and FRCOG to receive \$75,000. This money will be used for Buckland police officers to attend bridge training to comply with police reform thus enabling them to continue working in their current capacities.

Ms. Butler, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Phillips recapped the process and successful completion of the Nilman Road bridge which came in under budget.

Public Comment - Marilyn Kelsey stated she was glad to have heard Janet Sinclair's presentation regarding zoning legislation. She also questioned a fire hydrant on Ashfield Street which continues to be covered.

Volunteer Recognition - The Mary Lyon Foundation was recognized for their charitable work providing gifts and food to families during the holidays.

Announcements - The transfer station will be closed Saturday, January 1, 2022 (New Year's Day) but will be open on Sunday, January 2. With no further business, Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote in favor of motion was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, January 11, 2022

Signed

Zachary Turner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ZT', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Clinton Phillips 