

**Buckland Select Board
Meeting Minutes - Open Session
June 15, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Via Zoom**

Appointments

5:30 p.m. GSFABA - Whit Sanford

>Results of Shelburne Falls Initiative grants to the businesses and location of lighting in the village.

>Signature for \$7,500 grant documents from MCC.

>VIC and public bathrooms.

6:00 p.m. Girls on the Run - Chris Skelly -

Agenda Items

Community Development Strategies 2021 Plan

Order of Taking, Conway Street Tip Project

Franklin County Animal Control, Request to Rescind Dangerous Dog Status

Town Board and Committee Appointments

Town Hall Opening

Documents to Sign

Letter of Support - H.3213 An Act Updating the OML to Support Remote Participation

Regional Energy Planning Assistance - MOU with FRCOG

Time Off Request - Chief Hicks

Notice of Award, Charlemont Road, GEG Construction

Minutes May 11, 2021 and May 25, 2021

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance Meeting

Select Board Member Concerns

Town Administrator's Report

Public Comment

Volunteer Recognition

Announcements

Attendees

Barry Del Castilho - Select Board Member
 Zachary Turner - Select Board Member
 Dena Willmore - Select Board Chair, Absent
 Heather Butler - Buckland Town Administrator
 James Sullivan - Falls Cable
 Clinton Phillips - Select Board Member Elect
 Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk
 Cindy Schwerts - Buckland Recreation Committee
 John Michalak - Nisch Engineering
 Verlon Davis - Conway Street Resident
 Donna Davis - Conway Street Resident
 Gretchen Wilson - Conway Street Resident
 Ramana Goldstein - Conway Street Resident

Meeting

The meeting opened at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Del Castilho moved to go into executive session, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes. Executive session adjourned at 5:49 p.m. and open session resumed at 5:50 p.m.

Appointments -

5:30 p.m. GSFABA - Whit Sanford

>Results of Shelburne Falls Initiative - grants to the businesses and location of lighting in the village.
 >Signature for \$7,500 grant documents from MCC.
 >VIC and public bathrooms

Ms. Sanford's appointment was taken out of order and occurred as the final order of business for the meeting. Due to time constraints and the fact that Mr. Turner was going to have to sign off which would result in having no quorum, Mr. Del Castilho recommended addressing the one action item Ms. Sanford was to cover, *Signature for \$7,500 grant documents from MCC*. Because the document referred to the Village of Shelburne Falls rather than the individual towns of Buckland and Shelburne, Board members and Ms. Butler expressed concern over signing. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Del Castilho moved to approve Ms. Butler signing the contract contingent upon correcting the wording to specifically state the Town of Buckland. Mr. Turner seconded. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes. Ms. Butler also wants assurances on the management of the funds because Buckland will be signing the grant contract but not managing the funds. Ms. Sanford will address the other items she had prepared at a future meeting. *Results of Shelburne Falls Initiative* can be viewed on the Town website as an attachment to this meeting.

6:00 p.m. Girls on the Run - Chris Skelly - Ms. Butler introduced Mr. Skelly who gave an overview of Girls on the Run, a national program which encourages self-confidence and

communication skills. This year's program was held at the Buckland Recreation Area and consisted of 11 girls. Two of the participants spoke about their experience and presented the poster they created as their community impact project. Board members expressed their support of the program and assured the girls that the poster would be displayed in a visible and prominent location.

Agenda

Community Development Strategies 2021 Plan - Not addressed at this meeting.

Order of Taking, Conway Street TIP Project - Ms. Butler gave an overview of the timeline of events prior to this meeting, and emphasized that signing the Order of Taking would keep the project moving forward; failure to do so would result, at the very least, in the project being halted for this year with an indefinite future. Mr. Del Castilho further explained Ms. Butler's efforts to modify the project to "fit" our town, but to no avail. He reminded those who wished to speak to please identify themselves. John Michalak of Nitsch Engineering was introduced to answer questions.

Mr. Michalak explained that since 2016 there have been multiple submissions, reviews, and public meetings, and he informed those present that the project has to meet state standards which includes two sidewalks. He emphasized the scope of the project and all the improvements it will provide including reconstructing four roadways and the replacement/repair of culverts which proved inadequate during Hurricane Irene to handle the water volume.

Gretchen Wilson of 16 Conway Street, Verlon and Donna Davis of 8 Conway Street, and Ramana Goldstein of 28 Conway Street all expressed their displeasure with the proposed sidewalk on their side of the street which will greatly impact their front yards and result in the sidewalk being uncomfortably close to their front door. They also questioned the amount of communication between the Town and those property owners impacted by the project. Questions were raised regarding modifications that could be made at this point, the process by which that would happen, and how to organize communicating with local legislators to advocate on their behalf.

Mr. Turner informed the group that even during the pandemic when the world seemed on hold, government kept functioning, referencing public postings of events and virtual meetings, etc. Ms. Butler then screen shared a timeline of events starting when she became Town Administrator which chronicled all communications sent to property owners. She also explained that each of them were invited to schedule a visit to Town Hall, even when it was closed due to the pandemic, to view the plans for the project. Anyone who reached out received immediate attention and satisfactory results. She further explained the sequence of events and timing that led to the maps which had been sent to each property owner, and why they could not have been made available earlier.

Select Board members and Ms. Butler understand the property owners' concerns and informed them that at this point, a change order is the best approach to effect any changes they are seeking, but that the project must keep moving forward.

Mr. Del Castilho "reluctantly" asked for a motion on the Order of Taking. Mr. Turner moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes. Ms. Butler advised the property owners that the Town will move forward on the acquisitions of easements and explained the process. The *Conway Street TIP Order of Taking* and the *Citizen Petitions Conway Street* can be seen on the Town website as attachments to this meeting.

Franklin County Animal Control. Request to Rescind Dangerous Dog Status - ACO Kyle Dragon recapped the non-compliance of conditions which resulted in the surrender of 3 adult dogs and 5 puppies from a Bray Road property. He informed the Select Board that a five year ban on dog ownership can be placed on the former owner. Following a brief Board discussion, Mr. Turner moved to impose the five year ban, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes.

Town Board and Committee Appointments - Pam Guyette and Karen Blom worked jointly to create a complete list of renewals and new applicants for 2022. Mr. Turner moved to accept/approve all board/committee member appointments, and to do so in one vote (vs individual votes for each appointment). Mr. Del Castilho seconded. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes. Mr. Turner moved to accept all appointments for the Buckland Police Department, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes.

Town Hall Opening - Ms. Butler stated that with the state of emergency no longer in effect, there is nothing preventing the Town from re-opening Town Hall. She asked the Board if they wanted to open with any conditions from the Board of Health. Mr. Turner stated he would support yielding to the discretion of the Board of Health to which Mr. Del Castilho agreed. Of particular concerns are the public restrooms which should have specific cleaning protocols. Ms. Butler stated that Whit Sanford of the GSFABA wants to address public restrooms and those at the Village Information Center on the Shelburne side of the river. Restrooms/reopening are to be discussed at the Board of Health (BOH) meeting also scheduled for June 15. Mr. Turner moved to open the Town Hall and restrooms subject to BOH conditions, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes. When asked by Ms. Butler if there was a particular date to open Town Hall and restrooms, Mr. Del Castilho responded that given the Governor's order, perhaps the sooner the better. Ms. Butler has also spoken with Herb Guyette, emergency management coordinator, who is going to poll other communities regarding lifting restrictions. He has concerns over reimbursements and supplies. Ms. Butler sees no harm in re-opening/lifting restrictions but will allow Mr. Guyette to complete his survey of other towns and report back to her.

Documents to Sign

Letter of Support H.3213 An Act Updating the OML to Support Remote Participation - Ms. Butler has drafted a letter of support, though voting by House and Senate may occur before letter can be signed and mailed, Mr. Del Castilho moved to sign and send the letter, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes.

Regional Energy Planning Assistance, MOU with FRCOG - Ms. Butler expressed that she would like to continue the relationship; FRCOG keeps current on Green Community status therefore maintaining Buckland's eligibility for Green Community grants. The MOU can be viewed on the Town website as an attachment to this meeting. Mr. Turner moved to sign the document, seconded by Mr Del Castilho. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes.

Time Off Request Chief Hicks - Mr. Del Castilho moved to approve/sign, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes.

Notice of Award, Charlemont Road, GEG Construction - Ms. Butler gave an overview of the bidding process with the bid being awarded to GEG Construction for \$736,663.00. The Notice of Award and bid tabulation can be viewed on the town website as an attachment to this meeting. Mr. Turner moved to sign the Notice of Award to GEG Construction, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes.

Minutes May 11, 2021 and May 25, 2021 - Members had reviewed minutes. Mr. Turner moved to approve both sets of minutes as corrected, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes.

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

Select Board Member Concerns - There were none.

Town Administrator's Report - Ms. Butler had no formal report for this meeting, but expressed that she "really likes working here...that's my report."

Public Comment - Public comments were heard during Agenda Item, *Order of Taking, Conway Street TIP Project*.

Volunteer Recognition - Chris Skelly of Girls on the Run was recognized for the time and effort he dedicates to such a successful and valuable program.

Announcements - Ms. Butler announced the June 21 open house for the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service District and the availability of their Telehealth Program. With no further business, Mr. Turner moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, June 29, 2021

Signed:

Dena Willmore



Barry Del Castillo



Zachary Turner

