

**Buckland Select Board
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Buckland Town Hall**

Agenda

Appointments

> 5:45 p.m. BOH - Mosquito Control - Peggy Hart.

Agenda Items

- > Public Hearing discussion, ACO restrictions at Cricket Field.
- > Police Chief, replacement and recruitment.
- > Highway Superintendent, recruitment update.
- > Contracted services (mowing) concerns.
- > Blackboard Connect permission, Town Clerk for Special Election.
- > Proposed Special Town Meeting - October 2021.
- > Select Board/Town Administrator goals, continued discussion and progress.

Documents to Sign

- > Weston & Sampson contract, Charlemont Road culvert engineering.
- > Sidewalk Use Permit(s), Wood and Barrel Co., Crafts of Colrain Pop-up Shop.
- > Minutes August 10, 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

Attendees

Zachery Turner - Select Board Chair
Barry Del Castilho - Select Board Member
Clinton Phillips - Select Board Member
Heather Butler - Buckland Town Administrator, Absent
Peggy Hart - Buckland Board of Health
Dana McNay - Falls Cable
Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk

Meeting

Mr. Turner, Select Board Chair, opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Appointments

> 5:45 p.m. BOH - Mosquito Control - Peggy Hart - Ms. Hart summarized BOH ideas for site visits to assess risk factors. She reported that educational materials have already been placed at the Buckland Library, Town Hall, Buckland Post Office, and will be sent home with students. Marti Ferguson will update the town's Face Book page with pertinent information. FRCOG towns have been discussing creating similar language to unify protocols among member towns. Mr. Del Castilho asked if a public hearing was necessary to finalize plans; Ms. Hart responded it is not. Mr. Turner pointed out that not all towns who applied to opt out were approved; Ms. Hart replied that it appeared to be in areas where greater risk/probability exist.

Agenda Items

> Public Hearing discussion, ACO restrictions at Cricket Field - Mr. Turner recapped the issue of problems caused by dog waste at Cricket Field and the Buckland Recreation Area, and the need for a public hearing to address the problem. Mr. Del Castilho emphasized the need to be specific about what areas are being addressed and enforcement for the remainder of this year. Mr. Del Castilho moved for the Select Board to hold a public hearing for prohibiting dogs in the designated areas of the Buckland Recreation Area and Cricket Field, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote in favor of the motion: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Phillips, abstain. Mr. Phillips had stated his reason for abstaining from discussion and voting on this issue due to his wife's position as president of the Little League.

> Police Chief, replacement and recruitment - The next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting will occur after Chief Hicks' retirement on September 9, 2021. Mr. Turner expressed the need for both a short term and long term plan to open the discussion. Mr. Phillips stated that the process cannot be rushed, that the Board must do their due diligence in exploring the possibilities. He further noted that recruitment and enlistment in area police departments is down and it is becoming increasingly difficult for small towns to maintain a police department. After the suggestion was made to appoint Officer Kurt Gilmore as acting chief, Mr. Del Castilho responded that appointment of the senior officer makes sense and that it is the perfect time to investigate collaboration with Shelburne. He made reference to a previously shared interim Chief between the towns of Orange and Athol. Mr. Turner has made initial contact with the Shelburne Select Board and Police Department. Mr. Del Castilho moved to offer Officer Gilmore the position of interim Chief followed by compensation negotiations. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. Brief discussion followed regarding incentive/compensation. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. Further discussion covered the possible area towns with which to collaborate, with Shelburne being logistically was best choice. The Board will ask Ms. Butler to send a letter to the Shelburne Select Board to initiate dialogue. With Officer Gilmore stepping into interim

position (should he accept), Mr. Del Castilho pointed out that there will be another slot to fill and that will have to be addressed.

> Highway Superintendent, recruitment update - To date, no applications have been received. Board discussion followed including the possibility of a foreman with administrative support; restructuring town hall staff to allow for highway support and to relieve Ms. Butler of some duties; putting an end date to superintendent applications and revisit based on strength of applications received; what to do about fourth highway position, post it or wait. Need for fourth highway employee was emphasized.

> Contracted Services (Mowing) concerns - Mr. Turner and Mr. Del Castilho expressed concerns about roadside mowing that is not being done and for which the Town has contracted services. They called particular attention to status of roadside on Upper Street. The current contract ends this year. Board will address concerns with Ms. Butler looking ahead to a solution.

> Blackboard Connect permission, Town Clerk for Special Election - Mr. Del Castilho moved to approve, seconded by Mr Phillips. Vote in favor of motion was unanimous.

> Proposed Special Town Meeting, October 2021 - Items to be included would be grants, Planning Board Housing Bylaw and FY22 cleanup.

> Select Board/Town Administrator goals, continued discussion and progress - Tabled due to absence of Ms. Butler.

Documents to Sign

> Weston & Sampson contract, Charlemont Road culvert engineering - Mr. Phillips moved to sign, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote in favor of motion was unanimous.

> Sidewalk Use Permits(s), Wood and Barrel Co., Crafts of Colrain Pop-up Shop - Mr. Turner moved to approve/sign, seconded by Mr. Phillips. Vote in favor of motion was unanimous. Also regarding a request by St. Joseph's Parish to be able to display a banner advertising their tag sale, Mr. Del Castilho moved to approve/sign, seconded by Mr. Phillips. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

> Minutes August 10 and corrected minuted for July 27, 2021 - Mr. Phillips moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

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 - There was no report.

Public Comment - No public comment.

Volunteer Recognition - All emergency personnel was recognized for their preparedness and being on stand by for Hurricane Henri.

Announcements - A reminder was given for the Special Election to be held on Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, September 14, 2021

Signed:

Zachary Turner

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Zachary Turner', written over a horizontal line.

Barry Del Castillo

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Barry Del Castillo', written over a horizontal line.

Clinton Phillips

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Clinton Phillips', written over a horizontal line.