

**Buckland Select Board
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Via Zoom**

Appointments

Silver Cane - Honoring Oldest Town Resident, Floyd A.Parker

Agenda Items

Town Election Warrant, revised
Annual Town Meeting schedule
Board of Health appointment, Peggy Hart
Juneteenth
FY22 Budget
Regional Services

Documents to Sign

February 23, 2021 Minutes
Filming Permit, Marble Productions

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
Heather Butler - Buckland Town Administrator
James Sullivan - Falls Cable
Peggy Hart - Board of Health Appointee
Larry Langford - Finance Committee Chair
Clint Phillips - Resident
Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk
Zachary Turner - Select Board Member, Not Present

Meeting

Meeting was opened by Select Board Chair Willmore at 5:30 p.m.

Appointment

Silver Cane - Honoring Oldest Town Resident, Floyd A. Parker - Mr. Parker was recognized as the oldest resident in the Town of Buckland and will be honored by a Certificate of Recognition in lieu of the actual cane which is on display in Town Hall. Ms. Willmore read the certificate, followed by a Board discussion considering other ways to publicly honor him. The certificate can be viewed on the town website as an attachment to this agenda; Buckland's Boston Post Cane Policy is also attached. Ms. Willmore moved to sign the certificate, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Willmore, yes; Del Castilho, yes.

Agenda Items

Town Election Warrant, revised - Ms. Willmore read the revised warrant including all candidates. Warrant can be viewed on town website as an attachment to this agenda. It was explained that Question One on the ballot was voted on at 2018 Town Meeting but was not on ballot. Therefore, it does not have to go back to Town Meeting but does have to appear on the Annual Election Ballot. Ms. Willmore moved to approve the Election Warrant as presented, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Willmore, yes; Del Castilho, yes.

Annual Town Meeting Schedule - The schedule was presented, listing all dates/deadlines from the Select Board opening the Warrant on March 23, 2021 to Annual Town Meeting in the Mohawk Trail Regional parking lot, June 5, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Warrant Schedule can be viewed as an attachment to this agenda. There was a brief Board discussion regarding citizens petitions. Ms. Butler requested that they be submitted as soon as possible to allow for vetting by town counsel to ensure there are no contradictions to Buckland by laws or Massachusetts General Laws.

Board of Health Appointment, Peggy Hart - When asked by Ms. Willmore why she wanted to serve, especially in the midst of a pandemic, Ms. Hart replied that she is aware Board of Health members need a break, and she appreciates how difficult the vaccine roll out has been. She is familiar with the public health arena and has had experience serving on town committees. Mr. Del Castilho moved to appoint Ms. Hart to the unexpired term of Mr. Terry Estes until the town election at which time the position will be on the ballot. Ms. Willmore seconded the motion. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes.

Juneteenth - Juneteenth has been adopted as a state holiday. Ms. Butler asked the Board how it should be recognized and if time off for staff is a consideration. Unionized employees in other towns will be negotiating their terms. Buckland is non-union so the decision therefore rests with the Select Board. Ms. Willmore stated that the holiday should be recognized, but is not yet sure how best to accomplish that.

FY22 Budget - Ms. Butler deferred to Mr. Langford, Finance Committee Chair, and Mr. Del Castilho. Discussion included the Mohawk Trail Regional School operating and capital budgets, emphasizing that all items have been sorted and ranked; the Recreation Department's request for pool funding; request from the Buckland Historical Commission Museum for a sidewalk to the museum building on Upper Street; and status of stabilization funds and free cash. Timing and response regarding the Recreation Department pool request may impact their grant writing and fund raising. Therefore, that department needs a commitment which Mr. Del Castilho suggested could be in the way of a debt authorization. The Museum sidewalk raises questions of ADA compliance and coordinating any construction with the style of the building and walkway. ADA audit begins the first week of April so Ms. Willmore suggested the museum request be put on the back burner until after the audit. Mr. Del Castilho also stated that the building is not currently accessible, so suggested waiting until it is to address sidewalk. Discussion also covered tackling smaller portions of budget requests vs addressing the big picture now and availing the town of lower interest rates. Critical needs must be met, but overall balance has to be achieved between need and cost. Ms. Willmore stated that assessing the Mohawk budget entails going back to FY2019 expenses to get a proper perspective of "normal". She will discuss further with Mr. Langford.

Regional Services - Mr. Turner is taking the lead on this issue, and due to his absence, it was not addressed.

Documents to Sign

February 16, 2021 and February 23, 2021 Minutes - Board members reviewed minutes. Mr. Del Castilho made a correction to the February 16 minutes. Ms. Willmore moved to accept February 16 as corrected and February 23 as written, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes.

Filming Permit, Marble Productions - The revised permit was not yet returned so signing was tabled until such time as the town had permit in hand. Ms. Butler stated that the terms are more generous than the original document, and gave an overview of what it included.

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

Select Board Member Concerns - Mr. Del Castilho made the point that March is a five Tuesday month which raises the question of how to plan next meeting. March 23 will be soon after Ms. Butler returns from vacation which makes a quick turn around to prepare an agenda and town administrator's report. March 30 is an option for second meeting. Ms. Willmore stated she will leave it up to Ms. Butler to decide.

Town Administrator's Report - Report is available for viewing on town website as an attachment to this agenda.

Public Comment - N/A

Volunteer Recognition - Ms. Willmore read the following in recognition of volunteerism: "Here is a shout out to the team that snagged 14 appointments for Buckland residents needing the vaccine - the Senior Center asked us to help and this group rose to the occasion on Friday night, February 26. Waiting 4 to 5 hours for the link to go live, Regina Purinton, Andrea Donlon, Laura Scot, Laurie Benoit, and Marti Ferguson (our fearless and tireless leader) were successful in ensuring this group got jabs on this week in Bernardston. It takes a village. We have one awesome one here in Buckland."

Announcements - There were no announcements, and with no further business, Mr. Del Castilho moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Willmore. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, March 30, 2021

Signed:

Dena Willmore_____

Barry Del Castilho_____

Zachary Turner (Not Present)