

Buckland, MA Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023

Via Zoom

Agenda

1. Open Meeting
2. Review Previous Meeting Minutes
3. RDA for reconstruction of Barn at 58 East Rd. Buckland
4. Discussion of reclassification of Salt Barn location
5. Results of Open Meeting Complaint
6. Other Items within 48 hours
7. Public Comment
8. Close Meeting

Attendees

Kathy Lytle, chair/co-chair
Alex Meade, member
Steve Howland, member
Mary Knipe, member
Heather Butler, Town Administrator
Terry Reynolds, T. Reynolds Engineering

Items

1. Open Meeting
Chair Kathy Lytle opened the meeting at 6:31 pm
2. Review Previous Meeting Minutes
Minutes of the February 6, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Member Steve Howland moved to approve the minutes; member Alex Meade seconded the motion; all present voted in favor.
3. RDA for reconstruction of Barn at 58 East Rd. Buckland
(Correct address: 129 Ashfield Rd., Buckland)
Members Howland and Meade met on site with members of the Buckland Historical Society (BHS) Barn Committee, builder Alan Spooner, and the excavation contractor. There is a drainage ditch (by law, a stream) 50' from the barn which drains upland wetlands, and so an RDA and drawings of erosion control were requested. Those at the site meeting also reviewed the location of a tent where beams have been stored, and will have a washing station which will need to be located away from any drainage area. It was

noted that a permit for construction has already been issued, though member Howland had noted "incomplete" on the application, which raised the question about the building inspector issuing permits without Conservation Commission approval.

Member Howland moved that a negative 3 determination be issued with conditions that the erosion control plan needs to be followed for the duration of the project, and that members of the Conservation Commission may enter the property when they wish for inspections. Member Mary Knipe seconded the motion; all present voted in favor. As no ink signatures were required, member Howland will drop the paperwork off to the BHS.

4. Discussion of reclassification of Salt Barn location

Town Administrator Heather Butler presented the plan for the Town to relocate salt operations from the current location of 50 Conway St. to 2 Sears St. with a goal of being operational by next winter. The Town has engaged Terry Reynolds, engineer, and Jon Wyman, architect to design a tent-like clear span structure on a concrete slab with a 20 year membrane covering to protect sand and salt.

When the town's highway garage was located on the site in 2017, a delineation of the wetlands was done, and the flags were present for a number of years. Since more than 3 years has elapsed, the delineation has expired. Mr. Reynolds stated there seemed to be some confusion in the findings - there was no evidence of wetlands, but the area had been previously delineated "on the safe side," encumbering both the town and the abutter's property.

Member Meade reported that when he and member Jim Egan met with Dan Nitzsche, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., vegetation present was all reported by Dan to be upland species, and the soil samples indicated non-hydric material. But, there is always water present on the site - the question is, where is it coming from? Walking up the town's property, there is water emanating from a pipe. Member Meade contacted Mark Stinson for any information, who provided some mapping that might be helpful.

Next steps:

- Administrator Butler to contact neighbor to ask permission to walk on the property to investigate the source of the water; members Meade and Howland to walk site once permission has been granted
- Member Meade to forward information from Mr. Stinson to Mr. Reynolds
- Mr. Nitzsche to update report as appropriate
- Mr. Reynolds to move forward with RDA after the investigation of the upland source of water

Buckland, MA Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

5. Results of Open Meeting Complaint

Members reviewed the March 27, 2023 letter from Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General

6. Other Items within 48 hours

Member Knipe announced she has finished 8 classes of the Massachusetts Conservation Association's training, and has received a certificate of completion. Members of the Conservation Commission offered their congratulations.

7. Public Comment

No members of the public in attendance.

8. Close Meeting

Member Howland moved to adjourn the meeting; member Meade seconded the motion; all present voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm

Respectfully submitted, Alison Cornish, Boards Clerk

Documents Referenced

Letter, Office of the Attorney General to Attorney Mark Reich, cc Buckland Conservation Commission, March 27, 2023

Grading, Erosion Control, and Utilities Plan, Buckland Salt Shed Option 1, 3.13.2023

Wetland Assessment Letter Report, 2 Sears Street, Buckland, MA, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., March 28, 2023

Wilder Homestead Erosion Control diagram, n.d.

WPA Form 1, Buckland Historical Society, March 3, 2023