

**TOWN OF BOZRAH
INLAND WETLANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BOZRAH TOWN HALL
1 RIVER ROAD
BOZRAH, CT 06334**

May 6, 2021

The meeting of the Bozrah Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission was called to order by Chairman Scott Taylor at 7:02pm via Zoom teleconference/videoconference.

Members present: Scott Taylor (Chairman), Chuck Mandel, Evelyn Brown, Charlene Lathrop, Steve Brunetti, Jessica Carson.

Members absent: Jim Sipperly.

Others present: Glenn Pianka (Board of Selectmen), Sam Alexander (SCCOG/Town Planner), Katey DeCarli, P.E. (CHA/Land Use Agent), Aimee Corcoran (TVCCA Meals on Wheels), Wes Wentworth, P.E. (Wentworth Civil Engineers, LLC), Dave Held, P.E., L.S. (Provost and Rovero, Inc.), Matt Grohocki (Revelation Church), Ray Barber, Susan Ververis, Amy Sanders-Banning, Kathy Shoepfer, Dennis Main, other members of the public unnamed.

Scott Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

1. Public hearing: Proposed “Open Space Plan” (see attached notice):

Scott Taylor read the notice of the public hearing: *The Bozrah Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission (IWCC) will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 6th, at 7:00pm to discuss the draft “Open Space Plan”, which gives direction to the Commission for activities undertaken in its Conservation Commission role. The draft Open Space Plan and Zoom hearing information can be found at <http://tiny.cc/BozrahOSP>.*

Sam Alexander (Consulting Town Planner) stated that he can answer any questions from the public about the draft Open Space Plan, and asked for comments and questions.

Dennis Main (resident/Board of Directors of Avalonia Land Conservancy) commented on the quality of the plan and spoke about a planned acquisition by Avalonia on South Road, which he expects will be partially funded using grant funds. Mr. Main looks forward to hopeful collaboration with the Commission.

Hearing no other comments and receiving no other correspondence, Chuck Mandel made a motion to close the public hearing. Charlene Lathrop seconded the motion.

VOTE – UNANIMOUS – MOTION CARRIED

2. Review and approve minutes:

a) April 1st 2021 regular meeting.

Chuck Mandel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Charlene Lathrop seconded the motion.

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VOTE – UNANIMOUS – MOTION CARRIED

- b) April 15st 2021 special meeting/show cause hearing.

Chuck Mandel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Steve Brunetti seconded the motion.

VOTE – UNANIMOUS – MOTION CARRIED

3. Hear the report of the Wetlands Enforcement Officer:

Katey DeCarli (Land Use Agent) reported on her recent activity. Ms. DeCarli reported on a site visit regarding brush clearing on Salem Turnpike, a future application and likely as-of-right construction of a 8x10' crushed-stone boat launch on Fitchville Road, coordination of an application before the Commission, later on in the agenda, a Notice of Violation issued for Revelation Church, which will be discussed later on in the agenda, and inspection of 211 Bashon Hill Road, which will be discussed later on in the agenda.

4. Review correspondence pertaining to agenda items:

There was none. It was noted later in the meeting that two applications were received for 211 Bashon Hill Road.

5. New Business:

- a) Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Meals on Wheels: 81 Stockhouse Road, Bozrah, CT. Expansion of parking area.

Aimme Corcoran explained that TVCCA wishes to expand its parking area while in the process of repaving. The proposed expansion is small and in a relatively flat area. Sam Alexander reviewed maps, including an existing conditions survey produced in conjunction with a past site plan. The survey showed the limit of wetlands on the property. A gentle grass slope allows for runoff to be naturally filtered before reaching the wetland soils.

Chuck Mandel made a motion to make a jurisdictional ruling that the proposed activity as described was “not regulated”. Scott Taylor seconded the motion.

VOTE – UNANIMOUS – MOTION CARRIED

- b) Notice of Violation Issued: Revelation Church, 166 Bishop Road, Bozrah, CT.

Scott Taylor recused himself from this portion of the meeting. Charlene Lathrop introduced the agenda item and asked if a representative from Revelation Church was present. Dave Held, P.E., L.S. (Provost and Rovero, Inc.) explained that his firm was retained to prepare wetlands and zoning applications, including wetlands delineations

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for the majority of the property and a master plan for excavation and remediation. All work has stopped and Mr. Held will work with Katey DeCarli to install erosion and sediment controls as they may be required on-site. Ms. DeCarli stated that in her past visit to the site she did not notice any sediment transport into waterbodies. Mr. Held will have an application in by June 24th.

6. Show cause hearing (continued) and possible action: Cease and Correct Order - Unpermitted excavation of earth products in or near wetlands and watercourses (violation of Section 6.1), at property located at 211 Bashon Hill Road, Bozrah (Lot 019 of Assessor's Map 05), owned by James and Jennifer Paternostro, Stoney Hill Farm, LLC:

Scott Taylor explained that the hearing was resumed from April 15th and is in regards to a standing Cease and Correct Order placed on 211 Bashon Hill Road.

Wes Wentworth reviewed an updated site map showing approximate wetlands boundaries, which were field-delineated but not surveyed. Remediation activities continue on the site in-line with the Temporary Stabilization Plan. Wood-chip berms are still being installed. A 250-foot anti-tracking pad was installed at the entrance to the site. Topsoil berms at the south end of the site are being moved at least 50 feet away from the wetlands. Two to three acres have been loamed and seeded.

Two wetlands applications were submitted prior to this meeting: an application for an as-of-right farm pond excavation, and an application for the balance of the activity, removal and processing of stone in conjunction with agricultural land reclamation.

Mr. Wentworth reviewed the areas of wetland disturbance based on his field delineation. Commissioners were able to ask questions. There has been roughly 21,000 square feet of wetlands disturbance.

Scott Taylor made a motion to close the show cause hearing. Mr. Taylor reiterated the purpose of the hearing. Chuck Mandel seconded the motion.

VOTE – UNANIMOUS – MOTION CARRIED

Chuck Mandel made a motion to keep in place the Cease and Correct Order until the June regular meeting. Charlene Lathrop seconded the motion.

VOTE – UNANIMOUS – MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Wentworth thanked the Commission.

7. Review general correspondence:

Sam Alexander stated that he provided two reports to the Commission: a discussion of the steps required for selling excess open space land, with an initial assessment of existing small open space parcels, as well as a discussion of the current fee schedule for fees in lieu of open space.

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Evelyn Brown asked if the assessment of small open space parcels used the open space criteria contained in the draft Open Space Plan. The assessment only looked at the parcels' development potential. Sam Alexander will send around another copy of the report and the Commissioners will use the open space criteria to assess each parcel.

8. Such other business as the Commission may vote to hear:

In regards to a determination of the as-of-right status of a crushed-stone boat launch at a property on Fitchville Road, the Commission will seek a formal application from the property owner before they make a determination.

9. Public comment period:

Dennis Main commented that the Avalonia Land Conservancy will be seeking an Open Space and Watershed Lands Acquisition (OSWA) Grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) to purchase two properties, one in Montville, and one in Bozrah, on South Road. Mr. Main requested coordination with the Commission over the next few months. This property was already surveyed and appraised prior to Avalonia's involvement.

Susan Ververis asked about the extent of activity proposed at Revelation Church. The Commission did not believe Revelation Church would propose excavation over the entire property. All work has currently stopped and applications will be required to both the Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Chuck Mandel made a motion to adjourn. Steve Brunetti seconded the motion.

VOTE – UNANIMOUS – MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Samuel Alexander, AICP
Town Planner