

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

July 1, 2021

The meeting of the Bozrah Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission was called to order by Chairman Scott Taylor at 7:08pm at the Bozrah Town Hall, 1 River Road, Bozrah, CT.

Members present: Scott Taylor (Chairman), Chuck Mandel, Evelyn Brown (arrived 7:25pm via Zoom), Steve Brunetti, Jessica Carson.

Members absent: Jim Sipperly, Charlene Lathrop.

Others present: Glenn Pianka (Board of Selectmen), Sam Alexander, AICP (SCCOG/Town Planner), Matt Grohocki (Revelation Church), David Held, P.E., L.S. (Provost & Rovero), Dennis Main (Avalonia Land Conservancy/resident), David Styger (Avalonia Land Conservancy).

Scott Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:08pm. Scott Taylor recognized that Jessica Carson is now a regular member.

1. Review and approve minutes:

a) June 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting.

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

**VOTE – 3/0/1 (Carson abstained) – MOTION CARRIED**

2. Hear the report of the Wetlands Enforcement Officer:

The position of Wetlands Enforcement Officer is vacant. Chairman Taylor added an agenda sub-item under agenda item #8, in order to discuss the vacancy.

3. Review correspondence pertaining to agenda items:

Sam Alexander (Town Planner) noted two new items that were sent to Commissioners by e-mail, both dated July 1: a staff report pertaining to the application by Revelation Church and the soil scientists report from the same application.

4. Old Business:

a) Bashon Hill Farms, LLC (1): 211 Bashon Hill Road, Bozrah, CT. Owner: Stoney Hill Farm LLC, James and Jennifer Paternostro. Creation of a farm pond.

No new material provided.

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- b) Bashon Hill Farms, LLC (2): 211 Bashon Hill Road, Bozrah, CT. Owner: Stoney Hill Farm LLC, James and Jennifer Paternostro. Excavation/reclamation of agricultural land.

No new material provided. The Town Planner will complete a review prior to the next meeting, whether or not updated plans are received. The applicant may seek extensions.

The site is stabilized. The chairman remarked on the site and status of stabilization activities.

5. New Business:

- a) Revelation Church: 166 Bishop Road, Bozrah, CT. Excavation of stone.

Chairman Taylor recused himself, citing his personal interested (right to use the property for recreation) in the property.

David Help (Provost & Rovero) asked if he should proceed, seeing how only three members would be hearing his presentation. Sam Alexander asked the Commission to keep discussion limited, but no deliberations or decisions were scheduled to take place.

Mr. Held discussed the application, which was submitted following a Notice of Violation (wetlands) and Cease and Correct Order (zoning) because of illegal excavation activities. Mr. Held presented plan sets that covered an approximately 26.6-acre area of previously logged woodlands, where harvesting of stones located at or just below the ground surface is proposed in six phases, each under five (5) acres in area.

Stones are removed, smaller stones processed in place, and taken to a staging area. Steve Brunetti asked what is being done with processed stone. Processed stone is sold and taken off the site. Revelation Church was not aware of permitting requirements for the activity.

The activity was taking place in eastern and southeastern portions of the property, which are not covered under the current application. Because of seasonal conditions, those areas will be covered under a future application. Wetlands were not able to be delineated.

Chuck Mandel asked if Revelation Church plans to continue activities in the eastern/southeastern area once permitted. Mr. Held confirmed. Chuck Mandel asked about wetlands crossings for the haul road (old logging road), the material of the road in these areas and its stability. Mr. Held confirmed that these are wetlands crossings, in some areas it's a gravel base, the first (western) crossing contains an intermittent stream and the second contains Tadm Brook, which is carried by a 36" corrugated plastic pipe culvert with three smaller culverts. The road is bumpy.

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Chuck Mandel asked proximity of future harvest to the wetlands. Mr. Held answered that activity is proposed to occur right up to the wetlands. Activity has occurred within the wetlands prior to the Notice of Violation. Chuck Mandel asked if the applicant would consider a 25' buffer. Mr. Held stated that they are open to discussion.

Chuck Mandel asked about phase lines. Mr. Held stated that the purpose of phase lines was to keep activity under five (5) acres at a time, so that a CT DEEP stormwater permit is not needed.

Evelyn Brown joined the meeting electronically.

Mr. Held likened the application to rotational grazing agriculture where activity intensely impacts one small area before rotating to another, rather than impacting the entire site at once. Mr. Held discussed the open canopy because of a recent timber harvest. Chuck Mandel asked about limits of disturbance. Mr. Held stated that they are not noted on the plan; Sam Alexander commented in his staff report that they must be noted on the plan.

Mr. Held discussed the process of removing stone with a backhoe. Larger rocks are split in place, smaller rocks are split in the staging area. Chuck Mandel asked about total cubic yardage of rock. Mr. Held commented that the plans note a limit of two tri-axel truck loads per day (~40 cubic yards). Other than clean-up or remedial activities, no other work is proposed in wetlands. Sam Alexander asked about remedial activities. Mr. Held cited removal of material damming up a watercourse, for instance. Mr. Held stated that the area is revegetating.

Chuck Mandel expressed a need for individual site walks. Commissioners will work with Mr. Grohocki to establish times for a site walk. A church staff member should be on site. Mr. Held asked about classifying the activity. Sam Alexander suggested that Commissioners classify the activity following a site walk.

6. Discussion of Glemboski/Ous Property, and possible CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (“OSWA”) grant application:

Sam Alexander stated that representatives from Avalonia Land Conservancy (ALC) are present to discuss a previously discussed land acquisition proposal. Avalonia previously budgeted to apply for an “OSWA” grant in September, but recently learned that they cannot apply in 2021 or in 2022 due to the number of grants they currently have on the books. Avalonia is suggesting that Bozrah apply instead, with assistance from Avalonia.

Dennis Main (resident/ALC Board member/ALC Northern Towns Committee Chair) and Dave Styger (ALC Board Member/ALC Acquisitions Committee Chair) discussed the proposal further. The OSWA grant covers 65% of the purchase price of the property. The Town would be responsible for the remaining purchase price. One third of the property is located in the Town of Montville, so there is an opportunity for partnership with Montville as well as Avalonia. Avalonia has already completed some of the work associated with an

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application, including paying for an appraisal. Applications are due to CT DEEP by September 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Commission and Glenn Pianka (Board of Selectmen) discussed technical aspects of partnering with Avalonia on an application. An agreement would need to be in place and action would be needed by the Board of Selectmen.

Chuck Mandel made a motion in support of the land acquisition and moving forward with a grant application, if it's agreeable to the Board of Selectmen, and ultimately providing a letter in support of an application if one is submitted. Steve Brunetti seconded the motion.

**VOTE – UNANIMOUS – MOTION CARRIED**

Dennis Main and Dave Styger will work with the Board of Selectmen in explaining what will be required from the Town in order to move forward with an application. The Town Planner is available for support if an application is submitted.

7. Review general correspondence:

There was none.

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

Chairman Taylor discussed the need for a Wetlands Enforcement Officer. As of current the proposal is for the IWCC and Planning & Zoning Commission chairmen to act as wetlands and zoning enforcement agents. The Commission discussed different options with Mr. Pianka. Chairman Taylor will write a letter to the First Selectman outlining his case for a paid Wetlands Enforcement Officer.

Chairman Taylor discussed the dual roles of the Commission, as a wetlands commission and a conservation commission. Chairman Taylor outlined how a conservation commission can act in an advisory capacity to the Planning & Zoning Commission and to other bodies. Chairman Taylor suggested that there may be certain applications where the commission could make a determination under its wetlands powers and supplement their determination with an advisory opinion under its conservation powers.

The Commission discussed posting an ad in This Week in Bozrah, soliciting alternates to the Commission. Jessica Carson asked about hanging an invasive plants flyer in Town Hall.

9. Public comment period:

There was none. Chuck Mandel made a motion to adjourn. Steve Brunetti seconded the motion.

**VOTE – UNANIMOUS – MOTION CARRIED**

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Meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Samuel Alexander, AICP  
Town Planner