

Boxborough Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2021
Approved on February 9, 2021

Members Present: Owen Neville, Chair; John Neyland, Vice Chair; Sarah Murphy, Clerk; Bryon Clemence and Kathie Becker

Members Absent: None

The Agricultural Commission held its monthly meeting on January 12, 2021. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:48 PM on Zoom.

Review and Approve Minutes: The Commission approved the meeting minutes (5-0 via roll call) from November 10, 2020 (moved by Clemence and seconded by Becker).

Public Participation: None

Public Input, Emails, and Correspondence: Georgia Barry shared a letter from the building inspector about the boat storage that she has allowed on her property. She has been asked to have the boats removed. She planning to appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Neville spoke with the building inspector but was unable to facilitate a solution. Clemence questioned why this has come to the Commission's attention. Barry's land is currently in 61B. Owen will forward the letter to the commission to be reviewed by its members and will be discussed at next month's meeting. Neville will call the Town Administrator to discuss the issue.

Flerra Garden Review: There were only three gardeners at the Flerra Community Garden in 2020. The water source was certainly a problem, but the garden manager also got a late start getting the garden up and running. The gardeners would greatly appreciate a sturdy, permanent fence around the garden space. Mike Sullivan of Mike Sullivan Company Inc. is prepared to begin work on drilling for the new well. Neville will inform the Commission when the drilling will begin. Becker suggested we advertise slots for the community garden for the coming growing season. She anticipates there being more interest that we have seen in previous years.

Master Plan: Clemence suggested we review the Master Plan and make sure we have not fallen behind on any items and make sure we have an action plan for future work on plan items. He will forward his working document to all Commission members for review.

Zoning: No update.

Agricultural License: Neville will participate in the Conservation Commission's meeting next week. He will discuss the license with them then.

Discuss further encouraging and sustaining efforts: Neyland will touch base with Cloudland Farm to inquire if they have plans for putting the land back into agricultural use. Neville spoke with Max Porten who is interested in farming the land.

Additional Discussion/Updates: Neville will send out the Annual Town Report to all Commission members for review. Becker attended the Middlesex Conservation District meeting. They will be hosting a workshop on invasive plants and one on mushrooms in the coming months.

The Police Department called Becker about people running deer behind her house on her property. She has posted her property to help deter the deer runners. This may be a problem for others as well.

Neville will have all our future meetings scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month until June 2021.

Clemence is going to reach out to introduce himself and our commission to the new Town Assessor.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits:

Clemence shared a Master Plan Update document via screen sharing.

Next month's meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM (moved by Murphy, seconded by Neyland) 5-0 (by roll call).

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Murphy, Clerk