



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH Meeting Minutes

Boxborough Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2023 Approved on August 15, 2023

The Agricultural Commission held its monthly meeting on July 18, 2023. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM in the Morse-Hilberg rooms at Town Hall, 29 Middle Road, Boxborough.

Members present: Owen Neville, Chair; Kathie Becker, Vice-Chair; Bryon Clemence, Clerk; Margaret Delano; John Neyland (8:33 PM).

Members absent: None.

Others present: See Public Participation.

1. Review and approve minutes: The Commission approved the minutes of June 13, 2023, as amended, by a vote of 4 to 0 (moved by Delano, seconded by Becker) and the minutes of June 20, 2023 by a vote of 3 to 0, with one abstention (moved by Delano, seconded by Neville).

2. Commission reorganization. The Commission elected Neville as Chair, Becker as Vice-Chair, and Clemence as Clerk by a vote of 4 to 0 (moved by Clemence, seconded by Delano).

3. Public participation: John Fallon, Boxborough News.

4. Correspondence. Discussed under item no. 7 below.

5. Local agricultural developments. Neville reported that a local farmer will be raising a breed of small cattle; Delano to follow up regarding animal health care. Clemence reported that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prohibits sale of produce exposed to flooding, and he will send the policy. Becker noted that the FDA policy addresses flooding in other states that may be more severe than in Massachusetts.

6. Community/Middlesex Conservation District (MCD) events. Neville provided an update on community gardens, noting that fencing at Flerra Field had to be removed every year and maybe part of it could be left in place, which the Commission can look into. He also reported on the annual meeting of the Middlesex Conservation District (MCD), held on July 17; Commission member Delano is now a MCD supervisor. Delano suggested doing something for Fifer's Day, and Clemence noted that there will be a table for town boards. John Fallon noted there had been communications regarding a harvest fair, but it probably won't be held.

7. 95/105 Sargent Road. Neville reported on the June 30 site walk with the Conservation Commission to review the main trail layout. Neville and Delano represented the Agricultural Commission, and Sam Anderson and David Koonce represented the Conservation Commission (Anderson is their new Chair). The proposed trail does not follow the railroad.

Neville reported on a virtual meeting that he attended with Kristen O'Brien, Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT); Liz Markiewicz, Boxborough Conservation Commission; and Dave Barnett, Land Steward Chair. SVT encourages plans and hiring professionals for controlling invasives. Neville checked with the Town Clerk regarding any leftover funds that could be used for managing the property (e.g. forestry, invasives). The Commission discussed naming the property, including its history and who has

authority to name it. Delano sent Neville a list of questions, and he will be in touch with Phyllis Campbell, the former owner.

8. Invasive species. This was discussed under no. 7 above, although the Commission noted that it isn't limited to the Sargent Road property.

9. Next meeting date. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 15, 2023 at 7:30 PM, at Town Hall.

10. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM by a vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Becker, seconded by Neyland).

List of documents and other exhibits. Draft minutes for June 13 and June 20, 2023; Sargent Road trail map sketch.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryon Clemence, Clerk