

Boxborough Water Resources Committee

Meeting Minutes for August 12, 2020

Approved September 23, 2020

Voting Members Present: Les Fox, Chair; Bryon Clemence, Clerk; Mark Barbadoro; Bryan Lynch; Stephen Schmidt.

Voting Members Absent: None

Non-Voting Members Present: Ryan Ferrara, Simon Corson, John Neyland.

Others Present: Caitlin Spence, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

Public Participation: John Markiewicz

The Water Resources Committee (WRC) held its regular meeting on August 12, 2020, online in accordance with state COVID-19 policy, using the Zoom meeting application. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Public Input, Emails, and Correspondence. See individual agenda items below.

Review and Approve Minutes. The Committee approved the minutes of March 11, 2020, as amended, by a roll call vote of 4 to 0, with one abstention (moved by Schmitt, seconded by Lynch).

Potential Municipal Water Source. Fox summarized two possible motions for water supply land, as provided in the meeting agenda, authorizing the Town Administrator to: (1) utilize the services of a professional appraiser and (2) initiate negotiations for acquisition. Fox passed over the second motion, saying it was premature without information from the appraisal. Clemence and Lynch noted the need for precise descriptions and/or plans of the land and any necessary easements. Clemence asked about a possible conflict of interest with a local appraiser. Lynch suggested having Littleton Water Department (LWD) prepare or finalize a plan. The Committee approved the first motion by a roll call vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Fox, seconded by not recorded).

Neyland discussed Cisco Systems sale of its Boxborough campus, the possible operation of the its water system by LWD, and negotiations with the buyer vs. the seller. Markiewicz suggested a Cisco parcel that may be suitable for water supply as it is neither restricted for conservation nor already planned for development. Clemence and Markiewicz noted that Cisco's development permits are subject to approved open space ratios and floor area ratios. Lynch asked about a sale prospectus (not available yet) and the marketing firm (JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle)).

MAPC Technical Assistance Program (TAP) - GIS Mapping and Data Analysis. MAPC GIS Analyst Caitlin Spence and Town Planner Simon Corson presented the results of the town's TAP project: (1) "Boxborough's Water Story," a GIS StoryMap giving an overview of the town's water supply and (2) a GIS Dashboard with water resource data and analytical tools. Fox noted these would likely be accessed through icons in the town's GIS system and suggested sharing it with DEP. Spence said that MAPC could make the code could be available for use by others. Corson and Spence were scheduled to present these results at the Boxborough Select Board (SB) meeting on August 24, 2020.

Monitoring Well Logging Project. Fox noted a need to confirm well locations and collect monitoring data. Clemence to follow up with Spence about availability and format of data collected by LWD for monitoring wells in Boxborough required by Planning Board approvals.

Promotion of Water Conservation. Fox and Schmidt discussed the role the Conservation Commission plays in protecting water resources, e.g. conservation and water quality. Markiewicz suggested that George Krusen could provide research results on this. Fox noted the town lacks the authority that a water district has to regulate water use such as lawn watering. Fox described the banner promoting water conservation that the Sustainability Committee displayed at the Fire Station. He noted that Boxborough would likely have to rely on public information/education. Spence suggested utilizing the StoryMap graphics for this.

Meeting Schedule. The Committee decided on the fourth Wednesday of each month for its regular meetings, after discussing members' schedules and constraints.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting. (1) draft WRC meeting minutes for March 11, 2020 and (2) online GIS StoryMap and Dashboard.

Adjourn. The Committee adjourned at 9:14 PM by unanimous roll call vote (moved by Lynch, seconded by Schmidt).

Respectfully submitted,
Bryon Clemence, Clerk