

Boxborough Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes for September 15, 2020

Approved on October 13, 2020

Members Present: Owen Neville, Chair; Sarah Murphy, Clerk; Kathie Becker and John Neyland, Vice Chair (joined at 7:39pm)

Members Absent: None

The Agricultural Commission held its monthly meeting on September 15, 2020. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM on Zoom.

Review and Approve Minutes: The Commission approved the minutes of August 11, 2020, as amended, by a vote of 4 - 0 by roll call (moved by Becker, seconded by Neyland).

Public Participation: None

Public Input, Emails, and Correspondence: Neyland received an email from Minuteman Airfield. They are working on a date, late in September, for a walk through to go over the amended order of conditions.

Paddock Estates Agricultural Area: Less Fox reached out. The newly fenced area has been opened up for their grazing use. The trail along the north of their paddock has been opened. Paddock Estate residents have been notified and have begun to use the trail. When the new fence went in there was a large portion of the field that was too wet to enclose. With the recent drought that area may now be fenced/useable.

Flerra well: When the gardeners are finished with their gardening for the season, in late October, work can begin on the pump. Neville plans to attend a Conservation Commission meeting to remind them about the well that will be going in.

Master Plan: No update

Zoning: No update

Agricultural License: Neyland will speak with Morrison before our next meeting. Neville plans to attend a Conservation Commission meeting to discuss the agricultural license for the Robinson parcel.

Discuss further encouraging and sustaining efforts: Members encouraged to think about this for the next meeting.

Additional Discussion/Updates: Cisco is looking for a very quick sale. Our best hope is to reach out to the buyer or buyers, whomever they may be. There has been some talk of the town buying some of the land, but that has not been confirmed. The Agricultural Commission does not, at this time, feel the need to get a figurative seat at the table. We shall reassess as things continue.

Discussion took place about the plant Hoary Alyssum that is poisonous to horses. It has been found more frequently in the northeast in hay fields. Discussion took place about if and how we educate farmers about this invasive plant. The Conservation District is looking for education topics. Becker will suggest discussing this plant in their upcoming lecture series.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits: None

Next month's meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2020 at 7:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM (moved by Murphy, seconded by Neyland) 4-0 (by roll call).

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Murphy, Clerk