



## TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Meeting Minutes

Conservation Commission  
Oct. 7, 2020  
7:30 PM  
Zoom

Approved: Oct. 21, 2020

Members Present: Dennis Reip (Chair), Dave Follett, Norm Hanover, Steve Schmitt, and Hoff Stuart

Members Absent: David Koonce

At 7:30 PM, Dennis called the meeting to order and noted this meeting is being conducted via Remote Participation, pursuant to Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of COVID-19 a.k.a. the Coronavirus.

Also in attendance were the following:

Owen Neville, 317 Middle Road, joined for duration as both a private citizen and an Agricultural Commission member.

Leonid Mikhlin, 199 Middle Road, joined for an informal discussion about the status of the Enforcement Order the Commission filed against his property.

Arden and Niki Veley, 1055 Depot Road, joined the meeting to discuss 199 Middle Road.

Leonid's attorney lost internet access, so no discussion was held. The Commission will add the 199 Middle Road EO discussion to the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting agenda at 8:00 PM.

Motion was made by Hoff, seconded by Steve and voted unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes of Sept. 16, 2020.

Reip yes; Hanover yes; Schmitt yes; Stuart yes; Follett abstained.

The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions 113-563 at 427 & 493 Massachusetts Avenue. Motion was made by Steve, seconded by Dennis and voted unanimously by roll call to approve the OoC as drafted.

Reip yes; Hanover yes; Schmitt yes; Stuart yes; Follett abstained.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Hoff and voted unanimously by roll call to approve the payment of \$392.12 to Places Associates for services related to 881 Massachusetts Avenue 113-541. Reip yes; Hanover yes; Schmitt yes; Stuart yes; Follett yes.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Hoff and voted unanimously by roll call to approve the proposed Community Preservation Committee application for \$10,000.

#### Correspondence

By email Jonathan Schuster, Oxbow Associates, requested a one-year Extension to Order of Conditions 113-546.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Hoff and voted unanimously by roll call to grant the Extension. Reip yes; Follett yes; Hanover yes; Schmitt yes; Stuart yes.

#### Discussion: Invasive Plants Management

Scott Smyers from Oxbow Associates joined the discussion.

The Commission discussed their site visit findings and prioritized parcels that would benefit most from treatment.

Commissioners were polled on their parcel priorities. Results as follows:

Norm: Patch Hill #1, Steele Farm #2

David: Steele Farm #1, Patch Hill #2

Hoff: Steele Farm #1

Steve: No preference

Dennis: Patch Hill #1, Flag Hill #2

It was noted that while Commission resources could be applied to Steele Farm, the decision lies with the Steele Farm Advisory Committee. Ultimately the Commission settled on the Patch Hill trail entrance located on Liberty Square Road near Waite Road.

The Commission had an extensive discussion with Scott Smyers regarding mechanical vs herbicides, timing of application, notifying trail users of herbicide application and monitoring results. Norm accepted responsibility for posting activity at the trail head. Scott will take pictures before the application for later reference.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Norm and voted by roll call to approve the Oxbow Associates proposal for invasive species at Patch Hill.

Reip yes; Follett yes; Hanover yes; Schmitt yes; Stuart no. Approved 4-1

Oxbow Associates had submitted a Monitoring report for Boxborough Meadows 113-371, including invasive species management. The Commission discussed their findings from their visits to the replication site. There was general agreement that the replication site work was complete and a recommendation was made that Oxbow request that their client file a Request for a Certificate of Compliance.

The Commission did not agree that they should approve Oxbow's proposal to control invasive species at the site. It was noted by several members that this could be overreach on the Commission's part.

## Discussion: Minute Man Air Field

On September 21<sup>st</sup> Steve and Dennis did an informal walkthrough with MaryAnne DiPinto, the property owner's representative, to review the most recent work done by MMAF under the latest Order of Conditions. In general, they were pleased with the status of the property. Owen Neville, in his capacity as an AgCom member, commented that they were hopeful that the farmer currently leasing land off of Tamarack Lane would extend their lease to the Stow Road fields.

At 9:07 PM, motion was made by Norm, seconded by Hoff and voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn. Reip yes; Follett yes; Hanover yes; Schmitt yes; Stuart yes.

Documents used during this meeting:

Agenda

Draft Minutes Sept. 16, 2020

Correspondence

Blanchard Bridge 113-563 Order of Conditions

Oxbow's Boxborough Meadows 2020 Monitoring Report