



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH Meeting Minutes

Boxborough Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes for October 10, 2023

Approved on November 14, 2023

The Agricultural Commission held its monthly meeting on October 10, 2023. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM in the Morse-Hilberg room at Town Hall, 29 Middle Road, Boxborough.

Members present: Owen Neville, Chair; Kathie Becker, Vice-Chair; Bryon Clemence, Clerk; Margaret Delano.

Members absent: John Neyland.

Others present: Dave McKiernan, Select Board liaison.

1. Review and approve minutes: The Commission approved the minutes of September 26, 2023, as amended, by a vote of 4 to 0 (moved by Becker, seconded by Delano).

2. Public participation: None.

3. Correspondence. Neville reported on an upcoming "Grow Your Passions" garden talk as noted on the Grange Facebook page and others. He will notify the Boxborough community gardeners.

4. The Park at Beaver Brook Survey. Neville reported he had completed the online survey form with the responses the Commission approved at its last meeting.

5. Local agricultural developments. Neville reported some local farmers would be pursuing Chapter 61A designation. Delano reported on the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Middlesex County Farm Bureau and an email from MDAR pertaining to feral rats and poultry feed.

6. Community/Middlesex Conservation District (MCD) events. Becker reported that MCD was lining up a climate change speaker for its annual meeting in December. McKiernan asked what the MCD did, and Becker explained. McKiernan provided information about televising and posting meetings, and he will check with the Assistant Town Administrator. Delano suggested making the webpage a regular agenda item.

7. Community Gardens/Community Preservation Act (CPA) application. Neville reported that he submitted the CPA Preliminary Application, and provided details on the proposed fencing system. The final application is due 11/2/2023. The proposed fencing uses "sockets" to hold the posts, and he will ask DPW if they can assist with their installation. The Commission authorized the Chair to complete the final application and submit it to the Community Preservation Committee by the deadline, by a vote of 4 to 0 (moved by Clemence, seconded by Becker).

8. 95/105 Sargent Road. Neville summarized an email from the Land Stewardship Committee pertaining to completion and maintenance of trails. He will follow up with the previous owner regarding the history of the site. He said we needed progress for next meeting.

9. Invasive species: education, training, management. Neville noted that Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) wants invasive species eliminated on land they are involved with. Becker noted that their training covers one plant species, and more is needed townwide; she will send a list of invasive species. Clemence suggested pointing these out to SVT or asking if they have considered species such as Hoary Alyssum.

11. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM on a vote of 4 to 0 (moved by Becker, seconded by Delano). The next meeting date was already scheduled for November 14.

List of documents and other exhibits. Draft minutes for September 26, 2023; flyer for garden talk; CPA Preliminary Application; manufacturer's fencing information; Land Stewardship Committee email.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryon Clemence, Clerk