

**Boxborough Agricultural Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2020**

Approved on November 10, 2020

**Members Present:** Owen Neville, Chair; Sarah Murphy, Clerk; Bryon Clemence and Kathie Becker

**Members Absent:** John Neyland, Vice Chair

The Agricultural Commission held its monthly meeting on October 13, 2020. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM on Zoom.

**Review and Approve Minutes:** The Commission decided to wait on approval of last month's meeting minutes in order to include input from Neyland, who was unable to attend the October meeting.

**Public Participation:** None

**Public Input, Emails, and Correspondence:** Niki Veley sent out an email to local horse owners to remind them of proper trail use etiquette and manure disposal. She also alerted horse owners to the need to be vigilant about the poisonous weed Hoary Alyssum. Neville forwarded this email to the Agricultural Commission for review. He will also reach out to Niki Veley and see if she would like to discuss any of these issues further with the Agricultural Commission.

**Chapter 61 & 61A Applications:** Clemence did not receive an application last year and this year was not made aware of the extension that was granted for applications due to COVID. Clemence suggested that we work with the new assessor, when one is hired, to be more proactive and communicated better with the public.

**Minute Man Air Field / Cloudland Farm update:** Neville attended a recent Conservation Commission meeting. He learned that Cloudland Farm arranged a walk through with the Conservation Commission. September 21st a walk through took place. The Conservation Commission agreed that all conditions were met and they approved future agricultural use. The land is now ready to be put back into production.

**Flerra well:** The gardeners will wrap up their gardening in the next couple of weeks. The well work will begin as soon as the gardeners are no longer using the land.

**Master Plan:** The Select Board and Planning Board are scheduled to have a joint meeting in November to discuss progress made on the Master Plan.

Clemence, via screen sharing, showed us a MAGIC Agricultural Planning Program goals/overview pamphlet that he received and a Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) flyer (prepared for the Minuteman Advisory Group for Interlocal Coordination). Clemence will bring these to the attention of the Boxborough Town Planner for informational purposes.

**Zoning:** No update

**Agricultural License:** No update

***Discuss further encouraging and sustaining efforts:*** The Fabians (on Barteau Lane) have been clearing land to set up a small farm (approximately 10 acres). The Fabians asked Neville for suggestions on seeding the land to prevent erosion this winter. Clemence suggested that the Fabians leave the land ungraded until the spring rather than plant any grass that will not have enough time to get established before winter. Neville will reach out to them to discuss their options.

Georgia Barry reached out to Neville for help connecting with someone to help her put her land back into production. Her land is currently in 61B and she would like to have it in 61A going forward.

***Additional Discussion/Updates:*** None

**List of Documents and Other Exhibits:**

- Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) flyer prepared for the Minuteman Advisory Group for Interlocal Coordination (Shared via screen sharing and emailed to Commission.
- MAGIC Agricultural Planning Program goals/overview (shared via screen sharing and emailed to Commission)

Next month's meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2020 at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM (moved by Murphy, seconded by Becker) 4-0 (by roll call).

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Murphy, Clerk