



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Meeting Minutes

Conservation Commission
Oct. 21, 2020
7:30 PM
Zoom

Approved: Nov. 4, 2020

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

Members Absent: David Koonce

Also Present: Liz Markiewicz, Land Stewards Coordinator

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.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Norm and voted unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes of Oct. 7, 2020.

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

Dennis reviewed the requests for Certificates of Compliance at 200 Codman Hill Road for outdated projects. Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Norm and voted unanimously by roll call to approve Certificate of Compliance 113-93 and 113-359, both at 200 Codman Hill Road.

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

Discussion: Boxborough 2020 Master Plan Implementation Update

Liz Markiewicz, Land Stewards Coordinator, was also present to participate in this discussion. She reported on the Hager Bridge project and its funding.

Action 4.1.1.1. Maintain trail markers, kiosks, and boardwalks.

Lead responsibility: LS

Coordinate with: ConsCom, DPW

A variety of activity remains on-going.

- Removal of fallen trees from the trails is on-going. The next "work party" is scheduled for 11/14/2020 with a focus on fallen tree removal work.
- A successful grant application has provided for the furnishing of 3 new kiosks at trailheads (at Wolf Swamp, Fifer's Field, and Hager Land).
- The Stewards led the successful pursuit of grant and CPA funds to provide for the reconstruction of the Hager Bridge (to be completed in 2021).

- Additional on-going activity includes:
 - Coordination with volunteer groups (e.g. students, 80-90 Central Street) to perform maintenance work.
 - Coordination with the DPW for additional labor when needed.
 - Communication and coordination of Steward activity via a Facebook page.
 - Replacement of trail markers.

Action 4.1.2.1. Assess the need for additional off-street parking at conservation properties.

Lead responsibility: ConsCom

Coordinate with: RC, DPW, TP

The need for additional parking has been identified along Littlefield Road for access to the Fort Pond Brook parcel.

The next step toward implementation is to evaluate feasibility and cost of constructing a parking area in coordination with the DPW.

A related enhancement will be to improve the communication (mapping) of parking locations on the maps at the kiosks (overlapping with activity under Action 4.1.1.1).

The existing parking at other parcels has been evaluated and is considered to be adequate.

Action 4.1.2.2. Assess the need for bicycle parking at trailheads and other conservation properties.

Lead responsibility: ConsCom

Coordinate with: RC, LS, DPW, TP

The need for bicycle parking was identified at Flerra Meadows, and a bicycle rack has been installed at Flerra through the efforts of the Recreation Commission involving grant funding to furnish the rack.

Assessment of needs at other parcels has concluded that no additional bicycle parking is needed.

Discussion: Status of Enforcement Order 199 Middle Road

In attendance were the following:

Leonid Mikhlin, property owner, his wife, and his son;

Owen Neville, 317 Middle Road, a private citizen and an Agricultural Commission member; and

Arden and Niki Veley, 1055 Depot Road.

Dennis summarized the issues including the clear indication from the available mapping that shows that the chicken coop structure(s) and area of chicken activity are in the 100 ft buffer zone adjacent to the wetlands.

The Mikhlin's expressed the opinion that the maps appear to show the structures and activity are outside of the 100 ft buffer zone adjacent to the wetlands, and questioned the overall accuracy of the information shown.

Dennis disagreed with this interpretation on the mapping, but acknowledged the informal status of the Town's WebGIS mapping and the understanding that all of the information shown is approximate.

Dave stated there wasn't enough information available to make a precise determination.

The property owner has requested the Commission provide proof of the issues related to the Enforcement Order.

Dennis proposed the Commission hire a consultant to delineate the wetlands and measure the distances from the structures and activity to the wetlands. There was general consensus that delineation and field measurements would resolve the question of mapping accuracy and/or interpretation. The Commission asked for the Mikhlin's permission to allow a consultant to perform a site visit and they agreed.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Dave and voted unanimously by roll call to authorize hiring consultant services of no more than \$1500.00 for a delineation of the wetlands resource area and a determination of the distance from the structures and activity to the wetlands. Dennis added this does not set a precedent for Commission initiated delineation and plan preparation to replace an Owner's obligation; the Commission is only proposing this work to satisfy its own interest in having reliable site information.

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

Norm and Dave reported on progress with invasives at Patch Hill.

At 9:40 PM, motion was made by Norm, seconded by Dave 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 Oct. 7, 2020

Correspondence

Requests for Certificates of Compliance 200 Codman Hill Road