

SPRING
2022

THE BOXBOROUGH *Bee*



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Message from the Boxborough Well-Being Committee

"We were all friends and neighbors before this meeting; after this meeting we will still be neighbors; hopefully we will still be friends."

– Reginald C. Brown, Boxborough Town Moderator 1977-2005

We are lucky to live in a town with engaged and passionate residents, but when Boxborough is facing challenging decisions or controversial policy changes, it can be tempting to ignore the most basic kindergarten rule: treat people the way you would like to be treated.

We teach our kids respect, humility, and kindness, but we can sometimes lose sight of these fundamentals in the heat of strong disagreement or in the throes of advocacy for our cause.

We can also lose sight of the big picture: Debate over the town's trajectory has occurred for as long as Boxborough has existed; residents have deliberated their way through more than 200 years of change and growth. We're simply the latest generation in a long Boxborough tradition of discourse and democracy. There's no reason to abandon civility now.

We never will -- and never should -- have total consensus on all issues. But as Town Meeting approaches, we can probably all agree that we're due for a "back to basics" moment. And Reg Brown's iconic quote serves as the perfect reminder: let's remember to remain friends, despite our differences of opinion.

In the coming months leading up to Town Meeting, we will discuss, we will debate, and yes, we may argue, but we must do so with recognition of our common ground, with acknowledgment of our shared humanity, and with respect for our differences. Our kids are watching!

About the Well-Being Committee

The Boxborough Well-Being Committee was established by the Select Board in 2013. Its mission is to look at ways to improve the health and welfare of town residents. The Committee identifies factors that impact the well-being of Boxborough residents and determines ways and identifies resources to support improvements.

About the Boxborough Bee

The Boxborough Bee is sponsored by the Well-Being Committee. If you would like to share ideas for articles, share feedback on this publication, or get involved please email the team at boxboroughbee@gmail.com.



A New Face at Town Hall

Linda McQuade, Town Assessor

I am working as the new Town Assessor. I worked as an Assistant Assessor in the town of Westford for 2 years prior to coming to Boxborough. This position has provided me with a new opportunity for growth.

My prior experience includes 18 years of Real Estate Appraisal experience before I joined the Assessing profession in 2019. I love real estate and I'm excited to assist the Town of Boxborough with the valuation of real estate property, ensure that the property record cards are accurate, and generate new construction growth from the new Enclave condominium development. My goal is to provide superior customer service to the residents of Boxborough and assist them with their real estate questions.

My interests include traveling, biking and gardening. In my free time, I enjoy biking on various bike paths and love working outside in my yard. Last summer, I built a koi pond with 5 fish and a waterfall. I love to travel and have travelled to several Central American countries. I have lived in Dunstable for the past 30 years. I have 2 children, Melanie, age 26 and Justin, age 21. Melanie just completed her master's degree from Merrimack College and works in Marketing and Justin works for a landscape company. As far as my most exciting personal experience; I was a chaperone for 20 high school students in London at the 2012 Olympics. My daughter and her high school chamber group sang at the 2012 Olympics and various venues in London.



Volunteers Needed for the Public Celebrations and Ceremony Committee

Do you love the community spirit in Boxborough? Here is a chance to be a part of keeping the town's spirit going while having fun in the process. The Boxborough Public Celebrations and Ceremony Committee (PCCC) is looking for new members. Marissa Picca has been a member for four years and she's ready to mentor a new team before she steps down. The PCCC hosts the Memorial Day parade, the Tree Lighting, and works with the Boxborough Minutemen for Fifer's Day. All the processes, contacts and timelines are documented so you are not reinventing the wheel. It's a great way for new folks, or newly retired, to join in the community fun. Sign up by contacting Town Hall directly or email pcccboxborough@gmail.com.

Save The Date For Boxborough's Annual Town Meeting

WHO: Boxborough residents and voters

WHAT: Boxborough's Annual Town Meeting

WHEN: Starts Monday, May 9th at 7PM. Additional nights, as needed, will be May 10, 12, 18, and 19.

WHERE: Blanchard Memorial School

REMINDERS: The last day to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote at Town Meeting is April 10th. The Warrant will be posted by April 25th and a copy will be mailed to all households.

Town Meeting Fun Facts:

- Boxborough's first Town Meeting was held on March 10th, 1783, just a couple of weeks after the town was founded on February 25th
- Town Meeting has taken place at multiple locations over the years: the old meeting house at the top of Middle/Hill Road (which burned down in 1953), the Town Hall Grange room, the Blanchard School, and the Boxborough Regency
- There have been only six different Moderators over the last 80 years. Of those, two Moderators served a combined three years, so the other four have served 77 years!
- Town Meeting was initially held in March because most of the residents were farmers and there was nothing to do in March. It was moved to May in the 1970s.



2013 Boxborough Town Meeting, used by permission of the Estate of Elizabeth West

Town Moderator

John Fallon to Step Down

After this year's annual Town Meeting on May 9th, John Fallon will be stepping down as Town Moderator after 18 years of service. "Eighteen years is long enough," he says. "It's time for someone else to have a turn."

Fallon became Town Moderator in 2005. He was elected to the position after twenty years of service in town government. He spent nine years on the Finance Committee, two years on the Select Board, six years on the Boxborough School Committee, six years on the Acton-Boxborough School Committee, and eight years on the Acton-Boxborough Junior and Senior High Building Committee.



The prior Town Moderator, Reg Brown, who had served for 28 years, encouraged Fallon to run for the position after Brown decided to step down for health reasons. Since then, Fallon has been re-elected each year.

As outgoing Moderator, Brown taught Fallon that "civility is rule number one; it is not optional," a concept that Fallon has embraced and prioritized during his time as Moderator.

In addition to promoting civility, respect, and fairness at Town Meeting, Fallon has focused on maintaining complete neutrality. As a resident and as a participant in town government for 38 years, Fallon "of course" has opinions about the issues discussed at Town Meeting. But whenever he is asked his opinion about a warrant article, he is famous for simply reciting both the pros and cons of the article.

Fallon has enjoyed his role at the helm of the "purest form of democracy in the world." The role has "absolutely no power for 51 weeks of the year, and then for one week you're one of the most important persons in town." But to do the job well takes preparation and planning, including studying up on the warrant articles and the potential legal issues that could arise over the course of the meeting.

During his tenure, Fallon has made a point to try to minimize "parliamentary process." His goal was to simplify and streamline the proceedings where possible so that voters can "concentrate on substance." For example, Fallon supported the use of screens at Town Meeting to display the text of the motions, so they did not need to be read out loud multiple times.

Fallon also encouraged the use of Consent Agendas, where appropriate. While he is quick to point out that voters do not lose the right to discuss articles on the Consent Agenda, as any single person can remove an article for discussion, the Consent Agenda mechanism promotes efficiency and allows the voters to focus on issues that do not have unanimous recommendations. Since Fallon became Moderator, town meetings became a full night shorter, from an average of 3-4 nights to 2-3 nights.

Fallon is also passionate about encouraging new voters participate in Town Meeting. He loves "seeing new people come to town meeting, bring their unique perspectives to important issues, and see their joy as they find out that their voice and their vote really do matter."

To that end, he distilled Town Meeting rules and procedures into a one-page synopsis that helps new voters understand how Town Meeting works. He also instituted the system of alternating microphones for public comment, instead of raising hands to be recognized by the Moderator, which he believes makes the system fairer and more efficient.

As Town Moderator, Fallon has learned that Boxborough voters are "thoughtful and intelligent." He feels lucky to have been a moderator for such a "smart and listening" town meeting.

As Fallon reflects on his 18 years of service, he offers the following advice to Boxborough: "Be civil. Be respectful of your neighbors. Disagree without being disagreeable. Treat others as you would like them to treat you."

And his advice to the next Moderator? "Do your best to make sure the process is fair and every person is treated fairly and treated with respect. All voters have the same rights to speak and vote at Town Meeting, no matter how long they've lived here."

Thank you, John, for your 38 years of dedication to town government - including 18 years of running a tight ship at Town Meeting. Our next Town Moderator will certainly have big shoes to fill!

Building Bridges, Connecting Community

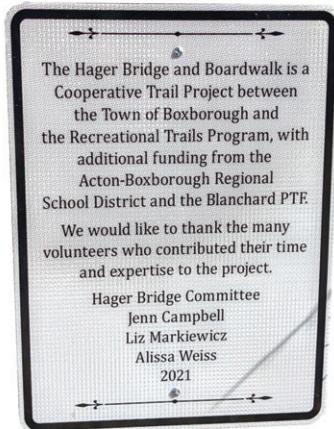
New Bridge connects Blanchard School to Hager Conservation Trails

If you want an example of what can be accomplished when people work together, look no further than the new Hager Bridge and boardwalk behind Blanchard School. Surrounded by beautiful woods and wetlands, the natural world has always been a part of Blanchard's culture. And with a renewed recent focus on outdoor learning, it became a priority to rebuild the bridge once again.

The newly completed Hager Bridge and Boardwalk is a Cooperative Trail Project between the Town of Boxborough and the Recreational Trails Program, with additional funding from the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District and the Blanchard PTF.



The old bridge in this location, originally an Eagle Scout project, was built more than 30 years ago. Scouts continued to repair and rebuild the bridge, but frequent flooding caused parts of it to be under water for much of the school year, making it challenging to get from the school into the adjacent woods and wetlands.



In 2018, the Blanchard Memorial School PTF initiated the effort to replace the bridge by applying for and receiving a MassTrails grant of \$73K. The Hager Bridge Committee, comprised of Jenn Campbell (grant writer) and Alissa Weiss, members of the PTF, and Liz Markiewicz, Land

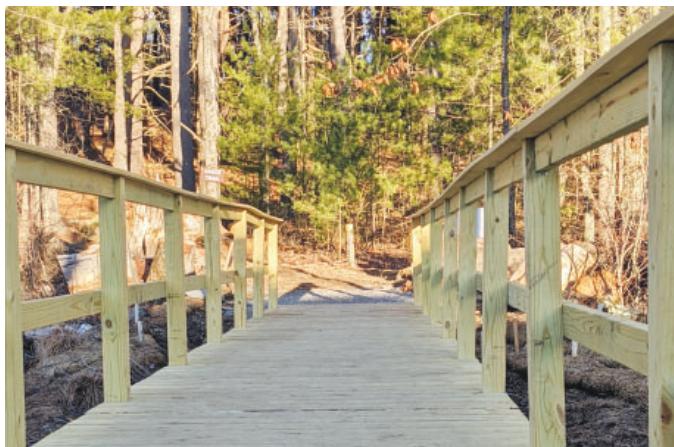
Steward coordinator, was formed to manage the project. Places Associates, the Town's engineering consulting firm, provided engineering and design services. In addition to obtaining a substantial sum of grant money, the committee applied and gained approval for CPA funds at the May 2020 Annual Town Meeting.



The project consisted of two integral parts: a 30-foot prefabricated pedestrian bridge made of recycled composite material and a 45-foot wooden footbridge. Originally scheduled for completion in the summer of 2020, COVID closures and subsequent supply-chain issues delayed completion for more than a year. Finally, in November 2021, the prefabricated bridge was delivered to the back of the school grounds fully assembled and hoisted by crane onto helical piles that had been screwed into the soil beneath the stream. Step one was complete!



Next, Alissa Weiss, who owns local construction company Hub Foundation Co. Inc., assembled a talented group of volunteers to construct the boardwalk over weekends in early December 2021. The volunteers provided an impressive range of tools and talents to the task. As an extra challenge, the boardwalk curved 45 degrees as it met up with the bridge, and all joists and stringers had to be individually measured and cut. One volunteer shared that this was the best way yet to meet neighbors and make new friends!



On December 15, 2021, the project was officially completed, thanks to the collaboration of local Scouts, the Blanchard School community, and Boxborough Land Stewards. The new construction is set well above the 100-year flood mark and is supported by helical piles that were driven 15' into solid ground beneath the stream. The new bridge and boardwalk provide the long-awaited safe,

year-round access from the school to the pond and the conservation trails on the other side. It also provides several large residential neighborhoods off Depot Road with pedestrian access to Blanchard Memorial School through Inches Woods, increasing the "walkability" of our town.



Blanchard teachers and students not only closely monitored the bridge and boardwalk construction process, but they made a video of the process to share schoolwide! From a safe distance, students were able to observe all aspects of construction during recess and eagerly awaited its completion. Classes immediately begin to use the finished bridge, clipboards in hand, to observe and enjoy the beautiful wetlands.



The biggest lesson learned for all: Boxborough has many tremendously talented residents who are generous with their time and committed to their community.

Volunteer Profiles: Women of Boxborough

March is Women's History Month! To celebrate, we are profiling not one but three amazing women of Boxborough. One was born here, one has lived here for 15 years, and one is new to town, but all three volunteer their time and skill to give back to our community.

Jeanne Steele Kangas

Jeanne was born and raised in Boxborough. She left for college and law school, and then returned to raise her family here.

Jeanne recalls being involved in the Grange from a young age, but her first real volunteer role in town was on the Finance Committee, where she served as a member and chair for many years. When the Town Moderator at the time, Tom Morse, asked her if she was willing to serve, Jeanne recalls that she "wasn't that familiar with it at the time, but I knew I had a good head for numbers." Of course, she notes, it was a much easier job back then as the numbers were all much smaller than they are today!

Jeanne has "always been involved in this, that, or the other thing" around town. Jeanne was the first woman elected to the Boxborough Select Board and served on the Select Board for ten years. Years ago, she started the "Selectman's Supper" initiative to host a Grange dinner the night before Town Meeting in order to get more people interested in it, and increase involvement and attendance. She also volunteers with the Boxborough Historical Society and currently serves as President, and is on the Board of the Boxborough Conservation Trust. She's been active in Republican politics for many years, ran for State Representative twice, and served as Chair of the state Party.

Through her volunteer efforts, Jeanne has learned that there are so many newer residents that care so much about the town and are energized to participate. "I've met so many wonderful people who bring newer ideas and are willing to help," she says. "To them I say 'welcome!'"

Jeanne's favorite story about the women of Boxborough is from the 1970s. The section of Route 111 that ran through Boxborough had fallen into disrepair, and Jeanne and others in Boxborough were lobbying the state to fill potholes and resurface the road. When Jeanne heard that the state was instead planning to widen and pave the road into a "giant drag-strip," she thought to herself, "why don't we just patch the potholes ourselves?" She and a team of like-minded women borrowed shovels, rakes, trucks, and asphalt, and filled half a mile of potholes while the Boxborough police chief directed traffic. Jeanne will never forget the homemade "Women At Work" signs and the national media attention!

When not volunteering, Jeanne enjoys reading and writing, and is working on a memoir of family stories for her grandchildren.



Megan Connor

Megan moved here in 2007, when she and her husband were drawn to Boxborough because of its location and conservation land.



Tanu Gupta

Tanu moved to Boxborough with her husband and young son in November 2020. She was drawn by the excellent school system, and is "loving it more and more" because of the people she has met.

Tanu began volunteering the summer after she moved here, joining the FreeBee Network and Market team. "The idea of sharing food, resources, and services amongst neighbors just clicked with me so I contacted Heather Fleming, one of the founders, to volunteer." Tanu also volunteers with the Acton-Boxborough United Way's "Welcome Neighbors Committee" to welcome new residents to Boxborough.

Inspired by the FreeBee Markets, Tanu has also launched her own volunteer project, "Give or Take Free Birthday Décor," which facilitates the free swap of unused or gently-used birthday party supplies. She collects donations, stores the items, publicizes the materials collected, and makes them available for free pick-up. In October, she helped to organize a Halloween costume swap in collaboration with the FreeBee Market, where she facilitated the collection and distribution of over 100 Halloween costumes. "I still think about the excitement, fun, and laughter of that day," she says. "The twinkling eyes of the kids and the satisfaction on the faces of the parents, it just made all our efforts and work so meaningful."

When asked what she has learned about Boxborough from her volunteer efforts so far, Tanu says that she "really appreciates the spirit of this town. People here are so warm, welcoming, and kind-hearted. It's really a perfect mix of modern and traditional values."

Tanu especially appreciates the inspirational women of Boxborough that she has met through the FreeBee project. "There are so many strong and accomplished women that it is difficult to name only one, but I would definitely like to thank Heather Fleming for all the volunteer work and efforts she puts into this town. ... She is passionate about her work and has taught me to be persistent and chase the dream without compromising. I am really grateful to her for that."

When she is not volunteering, Tanu loves spending time with her 4-year-old son, including taking long walks together and playing at Flerra.

Her first volunteer role in town was nine years ago, when she got involved with the Recreation Commission after she attended Winterfest and "fell in love with the community while watching all the children slide down the hill and parents gathering and chatting." She knew then that she wanted to be involved with the Rec Commission. She has served on the Commission since then, and is now the Chair. Megan has also volunteered on the Blanchard Memorial School Council and their PTF Grants Committee, and the Complete Streets Committee. She is also a member of the Boxborough Conservation Trust and the Sargent Memorial Library's Advisory Committee.

Her most meaningful volunteer project to date has been her work on the Recreation Commission to make Flerra Summer Playground happen each year. "It's not an easy task," she says, but "it's all worth it to see the kids enjoying the chance to be creative, get wet, get dirty, learn about new sports, and come home exhausted with smiles on their faces."

Through her volunteer efforts, Megan has learned that Boxborough "is a wonderfully diverse community and a place that fosters incredible families and stories. The history here is amazing too. Heck, our town has its own museum!"



Megan's favorite stories about the power of women in Boxborough come from her time on the Recreation Commission, which has had mostly female members for the past several years. "These women on the Recreation Commission have become my best friends... they all work so hard for the good of our community. I guess moms know how to get things done!"

Megan is also inspired by the women who are town leaders and who serve on our town boards and commissions. "Many of their kids have gone off to college, and some are still raising their families, and yet these women remain involved and engaged in our town. They are all my mentors and I am so grateful for all that they do for our community each and every day. Our town is truly a special place."

When not volunteering, Megan enjoys skiing, riding her bike, working at The Umbrella Arts Center, and spending time with her 12-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son. She also serves on the board for fundraising of the Virginia Thurston Healing Garden cancer support center in Harvard and on the board of the Wild Harbor Sailing School in North Falmouth on the Cape, where she was proud to raise funds for a new ramp so the program can continue this summer.

Do you know a volunteer extraordinaire who should be profiled in a future issue? Make a suggestion to Boxboroughbee@gmail.com.

SpringFest To Be Held April 3rd

The Boxborough Recreation Commission invites you to SpringFest on Sunday, April 3rd from 1-4 p.m. (rain date will be Sunday, April 10th). We will be celebrating the welcoming of Spring at Liberty Square Field in Boxborough.

Come join friends and neighbors around a bonfire to give the old baseball field a big send off as the restoration begins this fall. Enjoy great music and try your hand (and feet) at a human foosball game for all ages. Two Friends Chocolates, a Boxborough chocolate company, will show us how chocolate making is an art. A local hard cider company, Pony Shack Cider, Inc. will also be on hand for purchase of hard cider for all adults. The Boxborough Regency will be providing their world-famous warm chocolate chip cookies and wine and goodies for the kiddos.

Please feel free to enjoy the day as well by hiking through our beautiful conservation trails at Liberty Square Field. The Boxborough Conservation Trust will be on hand to chat with you about our nature trails. Gina's Dance Studio will offer a free Zumba class at 2:30 p.m. too for all interested in participating.

Children can enjoy special activities from the Taylor School in Boxborough and the Acton-Boxborough Family Network, and The Nature Connection from Concord, MA will be on hand to showcase some of their snuggly, winter animals.

Come on out, say hi to your neighbors and participate in all that Spring has to offer in beautiful Boxborough!



Summer Playground Registration To Open April 8th

The Boxborough Recreation Commission will be conducting its popular Summer Playground Program in four separate sessions July 5 through July 29. The program is open to children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2022 through those entering grade 7 in the fall. The program emphasizes the basic fundamentals and fun associated with participation

in youth sports, arts and crafts, and nature and science based activities at Flerra Meadows. Summer Playground is conducted daily from 8:30 AM to 12 NOON, weather permitting, and cancelled on the days of bad, inclement weather. Registration will open on April 8th. Contact the Boxborough Recreation Commission for more information.

2022 Fifer's Day Planning Has Begun!

Planning has started for the 2022 Fifer's Day, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday June 18 at Flerra Field on Stow Road. Having now missed 2 years due to COVID, there is much excitement to be planning for a return to a favorite Boxborough event. Fifer's Day is organized by the Boxborough Minutemen Company in association with the Boxborough Public Celebrations and Ceremonies Committee, as well as many other town organizations. We are looking forward to returning with many of our long-standing entertainments. This will include live music, kids activities, volleyball, road race, craft and vendor stalls, as well as delicious food and drink options. If you would like to get involved by helping with planning of Fifer's Day, or helping on the day, please contact us through the Boxborough Minutemen Company web site at boxboroughminutemen.org/contact-us

FreeBee Market Returns May 21st

Look for the spring launch of Free Bee Market on May 21st, the first Saturday after the Boxborough Garden Club's plant sale! Last year's markets were such a success, and it's time to begin again this spring, but on a somewhat smaller scale to start. Free Bee Market goals will continue to be sustainability, food sharing, and community building. However, organizers recognize that people are busier than ever now, catching up with family, friends and activities and may not be as available as they were last year. Starting on a small scale allows for upscaling if there are demand and volunteer availability. The community element of the market will focus on sharing resources, information and making connections rather than setting up activities. Market organizers will no longer do set up beyond the food tents but hope community groups will keep those community connections going that worked so well last year.



A second market is being planned for early June, before Fifer's Day. More details and dates to come with a focus on harvest timing in mid to late August, September, and October. If there are enough volunteer support and fresh foods to share between markets, perhaps an honor system produce tent could be set up on the church lawn some Saturdays. The creative possibilities are many, and the team encourages others to join in on an organizational or hands-on level. The team deeply appreciates the mighty volunteer force that made the markets possible last year and will be sending email information to those volunteers soon. If you would like to join the volunteer email list, please send your information and interests to freebeecommunity@gmail.com

FreeBee Market

Saturdays @10:30 - noon*
(*or when we run out!)

30 Middle Road, Boxborough

UPCOMING MARKET DATES:

May 21 – season opener

June 11 – last chance for seedlings

+ more dates to come – volunteers needed!

#BeeConnected



Questions? Want to volunteer?
Veggies or baked goods or plants to share?
email: freebeecommunity@gmail.com
 [@freebeecommunity](https://www.facebook.com/@freebeecommunity)



Join the Community Gardens!

Time to start thinking about this year's gardening! Both the Flerra and Middle Road gardens now have reliable hand pump water sources so there's no excuse not to try! For Flerra, which maintains organic practices, visit the Ag Com page on the town web site. For Middle Road, email oneville@boxborough-ma.gov or telephone Owen at 978-263-3285.



Boxborough Conservation Trust's Annual Meeting to Be Held March 29th

"Nature's Best Hope" with Doug Tallamy

"In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water." - Doug Tallamy.

Join us for the Boxborough Conservation Trust's Annual Meeting. We'll begin with a brief introduction about the BCTrust's activities over the past year from our President, Rita Grossman. We will then hear an engaging talk from world-renowned scientist, Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of several best-selling books (*Nature's Best Hope*, *Bringing Nature Home*, *The Nature of Oaks*), and professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. He cofounded the **Homegrown National Park**, a network of citizens dedicated to planting natives and regenerating biodiversity at home, one yard at a time.

Recent headlines about global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. To create landscapes that enhance local ecosystems rather than degrade them, we must add the native plant communities that sustain food webs, sequester carbon, maintain diverse native bee communities, and manage our watersheds. If we do this in half of the area now in lawn, we can create Homegrown National Park, a 20-million acre network of viable habitats that will provide vital corridors connecting the few natural areas that remain. This approach to conservation empowers everyone to play a significant role in the future of the natural world.

Join us for this uplifting event on **Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 7:00pm via Zoom** – free and open to all! Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/doug-tallamy>

Tallamy's Tips!

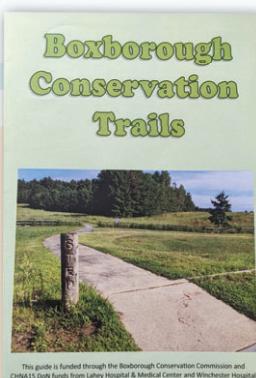
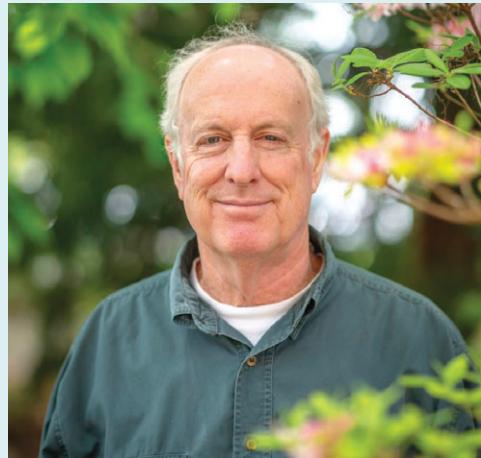
To Tallamy, the nation's backyards are more than ripe for a makeover. Here are some of his suggestions to help rejuvenators hit the ground running:

- 1. Shrink your lawn.** Tallamy recommends halving the area devoted to lawns in the continental United States—reducing water, pesticide and fertilizer use. Replace grass with plants that sustain more animal life, he says: "Every little bit of habitat helps."
- 2. Remove invasive plants.** Introduced plants sustain less animal diversity than natives do. Worse, some exotics crowd out indigenous flora. Notable offenders: Japanese honeysuckle, Oriental bittersweet, multiflora rose and kudzu.
- 3. Create no-mow zones.** Native caterpillars drop from a tree's canopy to the ground to complete their life cycle. Put mulch or a native ground cover such as Virginia creeper (not English ivy) around the base of a tree to accommodate the insects. Birds will benefit, as well as moths and butterflies.
- 4. Equip outdoor lights with motion sensors.** White lights blazing all night can disturb animal behavior. LED devices use less energy, and yellow light attracts fewer flying insects.

FROM Smithsonian Magazine April 2020: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/meet-ecologist-who-wants-unleash-wild-backyard-180974372/>

Conservation Trail Maps Available!

Do you prefer to have your trial maps in your hands rather than on your phone? Pick up a Boxborough Conservation Trails map booklet either at Town Hall or the Library. Designed to fold up and tuck in a pocket, the booklet contains 12 maps and a map of the town showing each location. Spring is almost here; time to try out a new trail or two!



“Local Lore” Project Preserves Boxborough’s Street Stories

Burroughs Road, Depot Road, Hager Lane. For the trio of women behind “Local Lore,” these are not just street names; they are “clues to our past.”

What began in January 2021 as a pandemic passion project has grown into Local Lore: a carefully collected catalog of facts, anecdotes, and legends about each of Boxborough’s streets.

“Being back in our hometown in a way we didn’t expect to be [during the pandemic], we realized we didn’t know anything about the local history,” explains the Local Lore team, Ianka Bhatia (long-time Boxborough resident), Amelie Lasker (Acton-Boxborough alumnus), and friend Simone Liano.

“The idea for specifically street signs came up because all of us like to take long walks and we’re always walking and talking on the phone to each other. On our walks, we were passing these street signs and we started to wonder about the stories behind them, who had shaped our community and how and why they were chosen to be honored.”

The team set out to identify and collect the stories behind each of Boxborough’s 87 streets, relying on a number of local resources. While the pandemic prevented them from doing research in person at the library, they consulted a number of digitized resources, including the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) and genealogical databases.

The best resources, though, turned out to be right here in town: George Krusen, Alan Rohwer and the Boxborough Historical Commission, Jeanne Steele Kangas and John Fallon and the Boxborough Historical Society, and Becky Harris and Liz Markiewicz in town government.

“Every time we talked to someone in town, in addition to helping us they’d connect us to someone else who could share wisdom and experiences. We really appreciated this collaboration and support.”

Now, the Local Lore team has collected stories for 59 streets and continues to seek information on the remainder. And they have learned to embrace the imprecise nature of “lore.”

“In general, we found that precise information on what a street was named for and why wasn’t entirely clear from historical documents, so we had to get comfortable with making some assumptions and conceptualizing our project as a collection of oral histories and ‘storytelling’ rather than verifiable research. For example, if we knew that an early colonial resident had lived on a certain street and the street bore the same name, we included the possibility of the street being named for their family in the ‘lore’ about the street name. We decided to include these assumptions because we realized that even the parts that were harder to substantiate added a perspective to history that’s just as valuable in understanding our community identity and generating a sense of pride in and care for our community.”

The Local Lore team has documented their project on a website that will serve as an online archive: LocalLore.org. There, you can search for a specific street name, browse all street names, learn more about the project, and submit stories for the archives. The team is also working on a physical exhibit to showcase the stories, which they are hoping to launch by Fifer’s Day.

“Our overarching goal for the project was to help expand Boxborough residents’ sense of community,” the team explains. “We have a hypothesis that as people learn more about the history of the place they live in they feel more connected to that place and its people, more engaged and more invested in it.” They invite the community to explore their website, LocalLore.org, and share stories for inclusion in the archives.



EnergizeBoxborough is Coming!



Do you want to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for a changing climate? EnergizeBoxborough can help!

The Boxborough Sustainability Committee is very pleased to announce the coming release of EnergizeBoxborough interactive website. EnergizeBoxborough is part of MassEnergize, a growing network of towns in Massachusetts committed to helping their residents implement concrete actions to meet the climate challenges we face. "The organization is based on the belief that household-level climate action, propelled at scale, is critical for reaching our climate goals." Check out the MassEnergize website <https://www.massenergize.org> which provides information about the tools and actions that we will be promoting. Keep your eyes peeled for the EnergizeBoxborough program launch – COMING SOON!

Questions in the meantime? Please reach out to the Boxborough Sustainability Committee sustainabilitycommittee@boxborough-ma.gov



Message from the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health

By Jenna Montgomery, LCSW

We at Nashoba Associated Boards of Health are taking the opportunity to re-evaluate our programming and hope to dive back into some outreach, education and community engagement as the weather gets warmer and COVID numbers get lower. This has led us to reflect on the contributions of people throughout history to the field of public health as we know it today. In recognition of March being Women's History Month and May being Mental Health Awareness Month, we're shining the Spring spotlight on Dorothea Dix, a New England native, humanitarian, and social reformer in the mid-1800s.

During her early years, Dix embraced today's #3 public health core function: education and empowerment. Dix saw the importance of sharing knowledge with others and published works that included practical information to support and inspire her colleagues and the general public. Later, as the appointed Union Superintendent of Army Nurses during the Civil War, Dix promoted formal education to expand opportunities for women. While she was thought by some to have exacting standards, she recruited an estimated 15% (3,000) of the army's nurses. During the War, she was esteemed for treating both Confederate and Union soldiers.

Dix was also known for championing the health, wellness and equity of underserved groups such as prisoners and persons with mental illness. She advocated for their care and treatment and, over time, founded asylums in NY, NJ and Illinois. We strive to embody the tireless energy and compassion of Dorothea Dix as we carry the public health torch forward!

Message from the Library

Dear Readers,

I am afraid we don't have much news to share with you from the Library as I write to you on this chilly March day. We are currently focused on developing a five-year strategic plan, and working on managing the buildings and grounds. Nothing fancy, but very, very important. A big thank you to all those who participated in the strategic planning process, and also to those who supported the Library's warrant article at the Special Town Meeting. Your contributions help us become better!

That said, we do have events planned. Oh yes we do. Something big and awesome nonetheless, but we are still working out the details, so before then, I'll have to keep mum. Please follow our social media accounts, check our websites, and/or subscribe to our newsletter (<https://boxlib.org/news-events/wowlibrary-newsletter>) to stay updated. When the time is right, we'll be blasting news all over those channels!

Library Events for Kids

Songs and Stories:

Mondays and Tuesdays at 11am
Recommended for ages 2 - 5, but all kids are welcome

Kids' Crafternoon:

Tuesday afternoons at 4:30pm
Appropriate for ages 5 and up.

Take-home Craft Kits:

Available every day
For ages 2-5

Boxborough Library Spring Used Book Sale: April 8, 9 and 10

Due to popular demand, the Friends of the Boxborough Library used book sale will continue as a three day event. The weekend will start with a Preview Sale for members on **Friday, April 8 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm.** (Memberships will be available at the door). The main public sale will take place on **Saturday, April 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The Everything Must Go sale will be held on **Sunday April 10 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.** Bring a bag (or bags) to the book sale on Sunday during this time and pay \$2 to fill each bag however you like. The sale will take place in the meeting room of the Sargent Memorial Library, 427 Massachusetts Avenue. Proceeds from the sale of books will go toward additional library programs and museum passes.

Please support this sale by donating your gently used hard covers, paperbacks, and audiovisual items and attending this sale. Books will be accepted from Monday April 4 through Thursday April 7 at the library during regular library hours. Please no VCR tapes or magazines or any material in really poor condition.

Come see Boxborough's Treasures

The Boxborough Museum at 575 Middle Road will be open from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on **Sunday March 13, April 10, and May 15.** Come see Boxborough's historic treasures including the 1850's scale which is sensitive enough to weigh a penny and strong enough to calibrate a 50 pound weight, the "new" hearse built in 1881, and the "old" hearse (come and see how old is old). Admission is free and all are welcome. In accordance with Town of Boxborough requirements everyone must be masked. For more information or if anyone wishes to arrange a private tour for a small group at a different time please call John Fallon at 978-264-0069.

Message from the Fire Department

Hello everyone! As spring approaches so does grilling season! Boxborough Fire Department will like to remind our residents the following list

- Always grill outdoors.
- Grills must be 10-feet from the side of a building unless the manufacturer's instructions say it can be closer. Make sure grills are not underneath overhanging branches.
- Grills cannot be used on a porch, balcony or deck with a roof, overhang or wall (other than the exterior of the building).
- Grills can only be used on open first floor porches, decks or patios if there is an outdoor stairway to the ground, or the porch is at ground level.
- Grills cannot be used on fire escapes.
- Place grills away from the house and deck railings.
- Keep all matches, lighters and lighter fluid away from children.
- Keep children and pets three feet away from grills. Children should never play near grills or propane cylinder.

We hope everyone has a happy and safe spring!

FF/EMT/COA LIASON Courtney Panaro

The Boxborough Minutemen Company Wants You!

The Boxborough Company of Minutemen will hold a Company meeting on **Sunday March 20 and Sunday May 15 at 8 pm.** For information please contact Captain Dave Bull at captain@boxboroughminutemen.org, or 978-263-5607.

The Boxborough Minutemen Company is open to anyone of least 18 years of age who is interested in service to the Town and/or perpetuating the memory of the Minutemen of 1775. Our members may participate in any number of the Company's activities including marching in parades, organizing the annual Fifer's Day town festival, performing seasonal clean-ups on Route 111, sponsoring the Boy and Cub Scouts, providing volunteers to the Blanchard School and other service organizations, and participating in our various social functions. The Company also provides financial support to a variety of service organizations and sponsors a number of annual scholarships to Boxborough students who are continuing their education after high school.

Both old and new residents of the town are welcome to come and make new connections with others in town. For more information visit www.boxboroughminutemen.org.



Cemetaries Announcement

In accordance with the Boxborough Cemetery Rules and Regulations, the following items must be removed from the cemeteries no later than May 1, 2022:

Tin cans, glass containers, flower urns, and similar items. Also, no artificial flowers or lighting are allowed. Please note this does not include flags in flag holders placed for our veterans.

After May 1, 2022, any of these items remaining on the grave sites will be removed and retained at the DPW for 90 days. You can retrieve your items by making an appointment with Ed Kukkula or Linda Collins at 978-264-1790.

RESOURCES

DACP *Doli Atamian* Campership Program

Are you beginning to think about camp and summer programs for your child/children? Are you concerned about affording a program? The Doli Atamian Campership Program is an all-volunteer organization raising funds to provide a camp or summer experience for children of low-income families in the Acton or Boxborough area. To learn more about their program and application process, go to www.doliatamiancampership.com/.



Know Us Before You Need Us!

As a non-profit agency serving 16 communities, we are passionate about our mission to empower and advocate for those impacted by aging and disability. We offer information and supportive services that enhance health, well-being and independence. We provide up-to-date resource information and referrals to community services, care management and in-home care, Meals on Wheels and congregate dining, elder protective services, assistance with budgeting and bill-paying, Medicare benefits counseling, caregiver support and much more. Many of our services are free of charge, others are available on a sliding fee or private pay basis. We want you to know us before you need us and when you need some help, just contact us at 888-222-6171 or elderinfo@minutemansenior.org Additional info on www.minutemansenior.org



Veteran Services in Boxborough

Are you a Veteran or surviving spouse who's curious about benefits you may be entitled to? Contact James MacRae, Veteran Service Officer for Acton and Boxborough, at 978-929-6614 or jmacrae@actonma.gov. There are a wide array of State and Federal Veteran Benefits you may be eligible for. These benefits include financial assistance, medical coverage, obtaining missing discharge papers, applying for service connected disability and more. There are no costs associated with my services and confidentiality is completely respected.