

The Boxborough Water Resources Committee

Approved by Boxborough Select Board
June 23, 2025

Whereas, water supplies in the Town of Boxborough face uncertainty due to development, pollution, and climate;

Whereas, no Town department or board currently has responsibility for the long-term future of Boxborough's water supplies;

Whereas, one of the six Top Priorities of Boxborough2030, the Town's current master plan, is to "Plan for long-term water resource management and protection";

Whereas, Boxborough2030 calls for the Boxborough Select Board and Board of Health to reinstate a Water Resources Committee by the beginning of 2019 and assigns to it several specific actions;

Whereas, the Select Board created the Water Resources Working Group and charged it with creating a charter for such a reinstated such a Water Resources Committee; and

Whereas, said Water Resources Working Group has prepared and presented such charter to the Select Board, following review by the Board of Health and other Town boards;

Now, therefore, the Select Board hereby reinstate said Water Resources Committee to be organized and operated in accordance with the following charter:

Charter of the Boxborough Water Resources Committee

A. Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the Water Resources Committee (WRC) is to ensure that Boxborough is prepared to meet future, long-term water supply needs for everyone in the town. The goals of the WRC are to:

1. Identify the town's strategic needs for protecting and enhancing existing water supplies, aquifers, and other surface water and groundwater resources.
2. Collect and analyze data on water quantity and water quality to support the town's efforts to meet its water resource needs for potable water and fire protection.
3. Determine what steps are necessary to keep all water supply options open for the Town in the future.

4. Make recommendations to Town officials regarding existing and future water supplies and other water resources in Boxborough, considering the Town as a whole and potential or suspected problem areas.

Consistent with Boxborough2030 and guided by sound engineering practice, the WRC shall meet these goals as follows:

1. Determine the best means for ensuring safe and reliable water supplies, using a planning horizon of 100 years, and considering cost, feasibility, and available alternatives.
2. Promote water quality and quantity, water conservation, drought management, and public awareness of water issues.
3. Leverage the Town's MS4 stormwater permit compliance work to improve retention, treatment, and infiltration of surface water runoff, and recharge of groundwater.
4. Evaluate the effect of full development or "build out" on the demand for potable water and the availability of water supplies.
5. Solicit input regarding water supply and wastewater management from the Town, residents, other property owners, and operators of small water and wastewater systems, and evaluate the costs incurred and problems faced by them.
6. Evaluate existing studies, groundwater monitoring, and modeling results; their applicability to Boxborough; and the need for additional such information.
7. Collect additional information, as needed, including installing and operating monitoring wells and conducting other studies.
8. Update the status of potential well sites identified in previous reports and identify which ones are no longer available.
9. Identify potential land for possible water supply sources, which may include drilling of test wells, if warranted.
10. Work with the Town boards and departments and private organizations to ensure the town's bylaws and policies promote development that is consistent with protection and enhancement of our water resources.
11. Assist the Town to preserve and protect such sources, their protective zones, and recharge areas for possible use by the Town, including acquiring land or access to land for water supply purposes and enacting or amending laws and regulations.
12. Evaluate the need for a public water supply system or subsystems to serve all or part of Boxborough in the future, including the likelihood that Boxborough can continue without such a system indefinitely, and at what point a municipal water system would become necessary or desirable.
13. Consider whether Boxborough should take a regional approach to water supply by coordinating with other towns or districts.
14. Address other water resource issues that may be identified.

15. Obtain funding from Town Meeting, grants available from government agencies and NGOs, etc., and hire consultants, well drillers, and other experts etc., as necessary to meet its goals.

B. Organization and Operation

The Water Resources Committee shall consist of at least five and a maximum of nine voting members and other non-voting members, as shown in Table 1. Members shall be appointed by the Select Board. A quorum shall consist of a majority of voting members appointed.

The Town Administrator, Town Planner, DPW Director and Fire Chief shall be appointed as members *ex-officio*.

Table 1 Water Resources Committee membership

<i>Voting Members</i>	<i>Non-voting Members</i>
Board of Health or designated BOH Agent	Town Administrator – ex officio
Select Board	Town Planner – ex officio
Conservation Commission	Director, DPW – ex officio
Planning Board Member or Associate	Fire Chief – ex officio
Agricultural Commission	Finance Committee
Four Members-at-large	Economic Development Committee
	Non-voting Members-at-large

Members shall be appointed by the Select Board. Except for members-at-large, they shall be recommended by their host boards. Members-at-large may be chosen from other Town boards and/or citizens at large, except that no town board shall be represented by more than one voting member. The members-at-large may also include other property owners and water resource experts who are not citizens if the Select Board determines their experience and participation would benefit the Town. Member terms shall be three years, except that initial terms shall be staggered such that they do not end concurrently.

Members should not include those whose other duties or interests may conflict with those of the WRC. If other subsequent conflicts arise, any member involved shall abstain from voting or other decision making by the WRC.

Revision notes:

10.29.2018 - Initial charter

9.12.2022 - Added 2 voting members at large, to allow appointment of BOH agent or PB Associate

6.17.2025 - Added 2 additional members at large, for total of four