



**TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Meeting Minutes**

Conservation Commission
January 5, 2022
7:30 PM
Zoom

Approved: January 19, 2022

Members Present: Dennis Reip (Chair), Dave Follett, Steve Schmitt and Hoff Stuart; Norm Hanover (arrived at 7:59 PM)

Members absent: David Koonce, and Liz Markiewicz

Others: Becky Neville (Finance Committee liaison), Keith Lyons, Jeanne Kangas, Arden Veley, and Melissa MacGillvray

At 7:31 PM, Dennis called the meeting to order and noted this meeting is being conducted via Remote Participation, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order due to the current outbreak of Covid-19.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Hoff and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of Dec. 15, 2021 as revised.

Dennis - yes, Dave - yes, Steve - yes, and Hoff - yes.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Hoff and voted unanimously to approve the invoice payment of \$465.35 to Places Associates for services related to 313 Mass Ave.

Dennis - yes, Dave - yes, Steve - yes, and Hoff - yes.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Hoff and voted unanimously to approve the invoice payment of \$3,357.50 to Places Associates for services related to 650 & 674 Mass Ave.

Dennis - yes, Dave - yes, Steve - yes, and Hoff - yes.

Dennis reviewed the necessity for the Emergency Order (EO) at Paddock Estates to remove the beaver dam. Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Hoff and voted unanimously to approve the issuance of the Emergency Order at Paddock Estates.

Dennis - yes, Dave - yes, Steve - yes, and Hoff - yes.

Discussion: Steele Farm trails

Jeanne Kangas, Arden Veley, and Melissa MacGillvray, Steele Farm Advisory Committee members, were present to discuss a new trail at Steele Farm. They discussed the details of the current plan for the new trail. It would be built in an area known as "White Pines Woods" that is adjacent to town-owned land and to private land. By connecting the new trail to existing trails, the need for a wetland crossing will be avoided; no action would be required by the Commission.

Notice of Intent Hearings 650 Massachusetts Avenue and 674 Massachusetts Ave.
Dennis noted that Places Associates is reviewing materials.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Hoff and voted unanimously to continue both hearings on February 2 at 8:00 PM.

Dennis - yes, Dave - yes, Steve – yes, and Hoff – yes.

Discussion: 650 and 674 Massachusetts Avenue Enforcement Orders and Restoration Plans

Dennis showed how new concrete blocks were added to prevent use of crossover road and to block access to a parking area located in a buffer area. The owner made a reasonable effort to block access with these additions.

Dave updated the Commission on his phone call with our Circuit Rider at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP advised that restoration should be based on 1990's as-built drawings. Discussed our position on critical issues related to the restoration plan. The Commission will continue this discussion at their next meeting.

Correspondence

By email Johanna Choo inquired about conserving land. The Town Planner and Conservation Administrative Support staff will be meeting with Johanna to review her concerns and interests. This issue would only be within Commission jurisdiction if a particular parcel is near a wetlands area.

By email, Francie Nolde expressed support for the Smithsonian Study and native plantings to encourage birds. The Commission normally specifies native plantings in its actions.

By email GPR requested confirmation of extension for Order of Conditions 113-554 at 1160 Liberty Square Road based on the Governor's State of Emergency 15 month tolling period which results in extension to April 3, 2023. No action needed.

Dennis and Becky Neville discussed funding needs for the Commission including funding of Recreation and Open Space Plan.

At 9:03 PM, motion was made by Dave Follet, seconded by Hoff and voted unanimously to adjourn. Dennis - yes, Dave - yes, Steve – yes, and Hoff - yes, Norm - yes.

Documents used during this meeting:

Agenda

Draft Minutes Dec. 15, 2021

Correspondence