



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH Meeting Minutes

Boxborough Water Resources Committee Meeting Minutes for February 24, 2021 Approved March 23, 2021

Voting Members Present: Les Fox, Chair; Bryon Clemence, Clerk; Mark Barbadoro, Bryan Lynch; Stephen Schmitt.

Voting Members Absent: None

Non-Voting Members Present: John Neyland, Simon Corson.

Others Present: None.

Public Participation: Janet Connelly, Blase Provitola, Linda Hoffman, Reeves Briggs, Karla Briggs.

The Water Resources Committee (WRC) held its regular meeting on February 24, 2021, online in accordance with state COVID-19 policy, using the Zoom meeting application. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Public Input, Emails, and Correspondence. Discussed under specific items below.

Review and Approve Minutes. The Committee approved the minutes of December 30, 2020 by a roll call vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Schmitt, seconded by Lynch).

Vibralogics Update. Barbadoro reported that Vibralogics submitted its application for site plan approval to the Planning Board. A hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2021. WRC members are encouraged to attend. He noted that the Building Inspector determined this is light manufacturing, a use allowed by right under the zoning bylaw, while the bylaw also restricts the use of hazardous materials, which it defines broadly. The facility's leach field is located in the Aquifer Protection District, which is mapped in the town's GIS. WRC members and the public asked about wastewater disposal requirements. Lynch responded that the state Department of Environmental Protections (DEP) regulates groundwater discharges above its thresholds for quantity and quality, and that Vibralogics plans to use the leach field with a waste deactivation system, rather than a tight tank. Fox noted the CDC and NIH guidelines being reviewed by the Board of Health. Lynch noted the Board's review of requirements in other municipalities. The Briggs asked about conflicts between zoning and DEP requirements, including the restriction on non-sanitary waste in the Aquifer Protection District. Barbadoro said that the most restrictive requirements apply, and he has contacted DEP for further information. He also plans to appeal the Building Inspector's decision as a citizen.

Frequency of Sodium Testing for Hager Well. Fox summarized pros and cons of collecting this data, including DEP requirements for it. Schmitt said salt use could justify it, and Lynch and Neyland noted other possible data sources. Fox to check confirm with DPW that current testing is once per year.

Monitoring Well Update. Barbadoro summarized requirements of the Planning Board permit for 80 Central Street. Lynch noted they have a groundwater discharge permit from DEP. Barbadoro to draft a letter to permittees for the Committee to review. Clemence asked about restrictions on road salt. Barbadoro to check the permits; Fox noted that the Aquifer Protection District prohibits salt use.

Update on Acquiring a Water Source. Fox summarized discussions with the Littleton Water Department (LWD) and the need to retest a well installed by CDM in 2006 before anything further can be done. Funds may be available from MassDOT, and he will contact them for an update. Upcoming tasks include preparation for Town Meeting and an intermunicipal agreement. Clemence noted that a prospective buyer for the Cisco property asked LWD about municipal water and sewerage there and expressed a need for one or the other. Lynch recommended reviewing the 2008 CDM report and reconsidering well

2-06 for source of water for the town. Neyland reported that the Economic Development Committee had no further news on a Cisco sale and noted that Cisco security staff had issues with firefighters during the recent fire on Swanson Road.

Other Business. Fox discussed an offer from Prof. Grant Garvin to install a monitoring well as part of the course he teaches at Tufts University. Lynch noted it would require approval from the Board of Health (to be filed through the health agent) and that the Agricultural Commission had been approved for an irrigation well. The Committee discussed possible sites, public and private. Schmitt noted one of them may be conservation land, and Connelly asked about monitoring parameters and potential contaminants. Fox, Lynch and Clemence to review and decide on a site.

Fox reviewed information from the Agricultural Commission about the well it plans to install at Flerra Field and discussed with their Chair its potential for monitoring purposes.

The Town Planner forwarded an inquiry he received from a real estate agent concerning Boxborough's interest in land available in Acton and Westford that might be used for water supply purposes. The WRC found it was unlikely to benefit Boxborough; Fox to provide a response.

Meeting Schedule. The Committee scheduled its next meeting for March 23, 2021 at 7:30 PM. Fox to post the March 22, 2021 Planning Board hearing for WRC to attend.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used at the Meeting. None.

Adjourn. The Committee adjourned at 9:05 PM on a roll call vote of 5-0 (moved by Barbadoro, seconded by Schmitt).

Respectfully submitted,
Bryon Clemence, Clerk