

Boxborough Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes March 9, 2021

Approved on April 13, 2021

Members Present: Owen Neville, Chair; John Neyland, Vice Chair; Sarah Murphy, Clerk; Bryon Clemence, Kathie Becker

Members Absent: None

The Agricultural Commission held its monthly meeting on March 9, 2021. The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM on Zoom.

Review and Approve Minutes: The Commission approved the meeting minutes (5-0 via roll call) from February 9, 2021 (moved by Neyland and seconded by Clemence).

Public Participation: None

Public Input, Emails, and Correspondence: None

Flerra Garden Review: Les Fox has requested that the Water Resource Committee be permitted to monitor the water once the well is established. The Water Resource Committee has the funds necessary for monitoring. The top of the well casing may need to be modified to accommodate testing. Neville and Clemence will look into casing options.

Master Plan: No update

Zoning: Neyland listened in on the recent Planning Board meeting. He is concerned about the restrictions that are being proposed for solar installations. Neyland is concerned that the huge setbacks (100-feet on all sides), limiting the size of the array (to one acre) and other restrictions will negatively impact farms and other land owners. Neville suggests that we go on record in opposition of the proposed changes. There is not enough time to review the proposed changes which are, in our opinion, detrimental to the rights of land owners. The Agricultural Commission was in agreement. Neyland moved that in the Town Warrant we recommend not voting for the proposed changes to the solar bylaw as there has been insufficient time to review the proposed changes and the Commission feels the town should be encouraging solar development. Clemence seconded the motion. Approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

Agricultural License: Neville plans to attend the next Conservation Commission meeting to discuss Agricultural Licenses. Discussion took place about requiring insurance for the licensee and whether that will deter new and/or young farmers from entering into licenses. Neville will look into insurance costs and options.

Discuss further encouraging and sustaining efforts: No updates

Additional Discussion/Updates: Middlesex Conservation District will be holding a workshop on invasive plants on March 16th. Boxborough Conservation Trust is hosting a talk at the end of the month on invasive plants, as well.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits: None

Next month's meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM (moved by Becker, seconded by Neyland) (by roll call vote of 5-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Murphy, Clerk