



## TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH Meeting Minutes

### **Boxborough Water Resources Committee Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2023**

Approved, April 21, 2023

The Water Resources Committee (WRC) held its monthly meeting on March 21, 2023, via the Zoom application. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

**Voting members present:** Les Fox, Chair; Bryon Clemence, Clerk; Janet Keating-Connolly; Stephen Schmitt.

**Voting members absent:** Bryan Lynch

**Non-voting members present:** John Neyland

**Others present:** Cindy Markowitz, Planning Board (8 PM)

**Public participation:** None

**1. Review and approve meeting minutes.** The Committee approved the minutes of February 21, 2023, as amended, by a roll call vote of 3 to 0, with one abstention (moved by Schmitt, seconded by Fox).

**2. WRC website updates and correspondence.** The Committee reviewed a memorandum from Nashoba Associated Boards of Health pertaining to the PFAS release at 795 Mass. Ave. and discussed its distribution and who has responsibility. The memo is posted on the town's website under Latest Town News. Keating-Connolly noted that Immediate Response Actions require that the Town Administrator and Board Health be notified and that the email address for the Committee's Board of Health representative appeared to be incorrect, which Fox will follow up on. The Committee agreed that it had no direct jurisdiction, but should be kept informed.

**3. Harvard Sportsmen's Club well removal.** Fox reported that the Town Administrator is making progress, with Ted Morine selected as the driller to remove the wells. Clemence questioned his description of where well #3 is located. Keating-Connolly suggested that well logs for non-CDM wells could help distinguish them. Clemence to follow up with Morine and Littleton Water Department. Keating-Connolly also pointed out that an agreement releasing the town from further obligation may not be sufficient to shield the town from other liability, making it important to identify correctly the wells for which the town is responsible.

**4. Update on salt shed at 807 Mass. Ave.** Fox followed up with the Board of Health agent, who reported that the salt shed now had a proper cover. Keating-Connolly and Clemence noted MassDOT's involvement in identifying the problem. Markowitz cited section 5.4 of the Board of Health groundwater regulation and asked who was watching industrial materials throughout town and whether there should be a database. Schmitt asked about the zoning bylaw. Fox, Keating-Connolly, and Markowitz to follow up.

**5. 2023 ATM Warrant update.** Fox reported on two warrant articles of interest: (1) approval of a surcharge on electric bills under the "Boxborough Bill" to fund Green Community grants and (2) a \$50,000 appropriation for a consultant to advise residents and the town on the water main extension.

**6. Report on "Celebrate Boxborough Bill."** Clemence summarized the Sustainability Committee's Boxborough Bill event held on 3/10/2023. While the WRC is involved in sustainability, it doesn't have

much of a role in energy conservation. Fox noted the grant program did not appear to cover water/wastewater projects.

**7. EPA proposed limits on PFAS.** Clemence and Keating-Connolly summarized EPA's proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS. Neyland asked about reverse osmosis as a treatment method, which DEP advises against.

**8. Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) update.** Fox reported on progress, noting that the IMA allows Littleton Water Department to ask Littleton Town Meeting to authorize borrowing. An interim IMA, to be completed later, may be necessary, since time is short. Markowitz suggested that the Select Board post a draft on the town website. Keating-Connolly and Markowitz noted that they provided comments to the Town Administrator, although there is no advisory group. Fox reported that MassDOT may have an improved estimate of betterments.

**9. Master Plan update.** The Committee revised a draft update presented by Fox, who will submit it to the Town Planner. It's due by the end of March.

**10. Workplan: proposed scope for RFP.** Clemence outlined a revised introduction with a clearly stated purpose, reference to tasks in the WRC charter that help achieve that purpose, and an opportunity for prospective consultants to provide their own recommendations. He also suggested requesting information on similar projects through the massplanners listserv, which the Town Planner supports. Discussion included RFP vs. RFQ, possible consultants, number of bids, and MAPC and MWRA as information sources. Clemence to draft a listserv request for review by Schmitt, Keating-Connolly, and Town Planner.

**11. MWRA regionalization study.** Fox reported on ongoing discussions and "screenings" concerning an extension of MWRA water service to MetroWest towns. Schmitt and Markowitz reported a map and 11/22/2022 press release were available on the web; the map did not include Boxborough as part of the extension study.

**8. Future meeting schedule.** Next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2023, 7:30 PM, via Zoom.

**9. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 10:31 PM on a roll call vote of 4 to 0 (moved by Schmitt, seconded by Keating-Connolly).

**List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting.** Draft minutes for February 21, 2022; draft master plan update.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryon Clemence, Clerk