



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

Conservation Commission
April 7, 2021
7:30 PM
Zoom

Approved: April 21, 2021

Members Present: Dennis Reip (Chair), Dave Follett, Norm Hanover, Steve Schmitt, and Hoff Stuart

Members Absent: David Koonce

Also Present:

David Crossman – B & C Associates, representing applicant for ANRAD DEP113-564 hearing
Guy Marchmont – Attending for Agricultural Use Licenses on Conservation Land
Maria Neyland – Select Board Member
Owen Neville – Agricultural Commission Chair
Brian Morrison – Attending for Agricultural Use Licenses on Conservation Land

At 7:37 PM, Dennis called the meeting to order and noted this meeting is being conducted via Remote Participation, pursuant to Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of COVID-19 a.k.a. the Coronavirus.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Steve and voted unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes of March 17, 2021 as amended.

Reip yes; Follett yes; Schmitt yes; Stuart yes; Hanover abstain.

Dennis reviewed the following correspondence:

By email a tree was reported leaning over a trail at Flagg Hill. Norm has seen the tree and reported it does not appear to be ready to fall any time soon. The tree does not represent an immediate hazard and would be difficult to drop due to its size and location so no action will be taken at this time. Dennis will respond to the correspondence.

By email Cynthia Dorsey inquired about land being cleared at the end of Barteau Lane near the Have Not Pond trail. Norm reported on his visit with Liz Markiewicz, Land Stewardship Coordinator. The clearing in question is extensive but outside of jurisdiction and on private property. Dennis will respond to Cynthia's inquiry.

By email Lisa Harsip inquired about a memorial bench at Flerra Meadows in honor of her husband, Barry. Mary preemptively communicated to Lisa the Commission's long standing moratorium. The Commission reaffirmed the moratorium.

Dennis reviewed the Enforcement Order (EO) at 650 and 674 Massachusetts Avenue, including the annotated photos and plans that resulted from his site visit on March 19, 2021 with the Building Inspector. Dennis noted that the new violation was discovered while verifying that the previous violation was resolved. The Commission considers the new violation to be very significant. The violation impacts both 650 and 674 Mass Ave however these properties are currently owned by the same LLC. The EO requires a Notice of Intent be filed by April 23, 2021.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Norm and voted unanimously by roll call to approve the EO issued on March 23, 2021 on behalf of the Commission.
Reip yes; Follett yes; Hanover yes; Schmitt yes; Stuart yes

Hearing Continuation:

Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) DEP 113-564

Location: 595 Depot Road, Assessor's Map 10-011-000 and
615 Depot Road, Assessor's Map 10-012-000.

Applicant: Roger Kanniard, Kanniard Homes

Representative: Dave Crossman, B & C Associates, Inc.

Dave presented the ANRAD.

Places Associates provided their peer review report.

They noted the following two issues in their review:

1. alternate positioning of a wetland flag by roughly 15 feet. B & C accepted the change.
2. failure to flag Eastern side of 595 or account for wetland on adjacent town land. B & C noted that the flagging of these features would not be relevant to any future filings and will note the exemption.

B & C was not able to provide updated documentation in time for the hearing.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Steve and voted unanimously by roll call to continue the hearing to April 21, 2021 at 8:00.

Reip yes; Follett yes; Hanover yes; Schmitt yes; Stuart yes.

Hearing: Agricultural Use Licenses on Conservation Land (e.g.1011 Hill Road)

Brian Morrison discussed his proposal to lease the Conservation Land at 1011 Hill Rd. for haying. He is proposing to cut the pasture this year and in subsequent years adjust the PH and overseed as appropriate. He will not use fertilizers or pesticides. Brian emphasized that he is not proposing commercial activity.

A number of Commission and community members had comments including the following:

1. invasives at the property and how farming may or may not help control them;
2. concern that the boundaries might not be properly marked;
3. insurance requirements; and
4. the impact of haying on milkweed that is located in the pasture and how to protect it for monarch butterflies.

Dennis Reip, Owen Neville, and Brian Morrison agreed to develop a proposal that the Conservation Commission can evaluate at a future meeting.

Motion was made by Norm, seconded by Dennis, and voted unanimously by roll call to close the hearing. Reip yes; Follett yes; Hanover yes; Schmitt yes; Stuart yes

Other topics:

After a brief discussion, the Commission reaffirmed that are not going to honor Jan Rejto's request to name a trail after her dog. Dennis will communicate directly with Jan.

The following Land Stewardship Committee topics were raised by Norm and discussed.

1. Hikers are confused with the Whitcomb Rd. trail easement. As currently constructed, the Whitcomb Rd trail is difficult to identify and follow for a number of reasons. There was general agreement that the trail needs to be shifted towards the middle of the easement and made more definitive through markings and clearing. Norm will send a letter to the property owner notifying them that this activity will be taking place.
2. LandSCom would like Department of Public Works (DPW) assistance with the following:
 - a. digging holes for the new sign posts at Wolf Swamp;
 - b. creating a parking area at the Littlefield Rd. trail head; and
 - c. moving the wood chips that were dumped in front of the Whitcomb Rd. trail in the town right of way.

Norm will email the DPW with these requests and copy the Select Board and Town Administrator.

Owen Neville raised a concern that the Indian Meadows sign no longer credited Olga Rubin who donated the property. Norm reported that in general the information on Commission signs is being reduced to save time and money. There was then a review of the trail descriptions on the town website where we identified a lack of consistency regarding historical information about the properties. Dennis will ask Mary and Liz to look into updating the descriptions to preserve this information and, in the case of Indian Meadows, credit Olga Rubin with her donation.

At 9:23 PM, motion was made by Hoff, seconded by Steve, and voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn. Reip yes; Follett yes; Hanover yes; Schmitt yes; Stuart yes.

Documents used during this meeting:

Agenda

Draft Minutes March 17, 2021

Correspondence

EO 650 and 674 Massachusetts

ANRAD 595 & 615 Depot

Places Assoc. ANRAD Review dated April 1, 2021

Agricultural Lease Hearing Notice

Agricultural License draft template