

Boxborough Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes April 13, 2021

Approved on May 4, 2021

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

Members Absent: None

Also in attendance: Mark Barbardoro and Rebecca Verner-Planning Board members

The Agricultural Commission held its monthly meeting on April 13, 2021. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM on Zoom.

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

Public Participation: none

Public Input, Emails, and Correspondence: None

Zoning: Mark Barbardoro informed us that the Planning Board will be asking for \$30,000 at Town Meeting to clean up the zoning bylaw. They would like to make it more readable and understandable for all. The intention is not to change the by-laws but simple to make it more accessible and easier to read/use. Barrett Group was hired to find wording/organization in the bylaw that was confusing or misleading. The \$30,000 will be used to fix and clarify the misleading or confusing wording.

Barbardoro talked to the Commission about the intent of the solar bylaw proposal. The Planning Board's intention is to preserve open space. They would like us to reconsider our position in opposition to the solar bylaw proposal. Verner ask the Commission to share our reservations or opposition to the bylaw. Neville and other members related our position as discussed in our previous meeting. Members were able to ask questions and get clarification. Verner explained how the bylaw was researched and written.

Master Plan: Clemence shared a Master Plan update via screen sharing. Discussion ensued. Neville suggested the update is ready to the Select Board. Neyland moved to submit the update to the Select Board, Planning Board and Town Planner. Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0 via roll call vote.

Flerra Garden and Well: The well was installed two weeks ago. It was drilled to a depth of 325' and pumps at a rate of 10-12gpm. DPW will clean up the site before the garden is prepped for the season. There have been a number of inquiries for both community garden sites for this growing season.

Agricultural License: Neville met with the Conservation Commission to discuss the Agricultural license agreement. The ConsCom has given the go ahead to further discuss/finalize the lease agreement with Morrison.

Discuss further encouraging and sustaining efforts: Neyland forwarded on some information to Cloudland Farm and Dancing Plover Farm about a Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources webinar that Neville received.

Max Porten is set to begin haying Margaret Delano's hay fields. There has been no news about the farming efforts on Barteau Lane.

Additional Discussion/Updates: None

List of Documents and Other Exhibits: Master Plan update shared by Clemence using screen sharing.

Next month's meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM (moved by Neville, seconded by Neyland) 5-0 (by roll call vote).

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Murphy, Clerk