



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH Meeting Minutes

Boxborough Water Resources Committee

Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2023

Approved, May 23, 2023

The Boxborough Water Resources Committee (WRC) held its monthly meeting on April 21, 2023, via the Zoom application. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

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

Voting members absent: None.

Non-voting members present: Keshava Srivastava (part of meeting).

Others present: None.

Public participation: None.

1. Review and approve meeting minutes. The Committee approved the minutes of March 21, 2023, as amended, by a roll call vote of 4 to 0, with one abstention (moved by Schmitt, seconded by Keating-Connolly).

2. Correspondence.

Fox provided an update on the Massachusetts Avenue PFAS spill, the attorney representing the town, and his recommendation to hire an expert consultant. He also reported on monitoring or test wells found on the Patch Hill conservation land. Lynch thought they may have been required by the Planning Board for a subdivision permit. Fox said the Planning Board was too busy to review the wells at this time, and he would provide the information to Schmitt, representing the Conservation Commission.

3. WRC website updates. Clemence noted the Groundwater Protection Regulation on the Board of Health webpage is designated "Proposed," and Lynch said it had been adopted.

4. Draft Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) discussion. Fox provided an update, noting the IMA is needed to support Littleton Town Meeting authorizing Littleton to borrow money for this project and others. Their Town Meeting starts on 5/1/2023, and Littleton is holding an Information forum on 4/25/2023. The special legislation will be reviewed another time.

Fox and Clemence had marked up an earlier version of the IMA. The Committee recommended further revisions to it and revised a draft letter to counsel summarizing them. It recommended: (1) designating a service area and deleting specific properties to be served; (2) specifying that the project provide enough water to meet the demand of the service area; and (3) ensuring that requirements for water use (including commercial and firefighting uses), water restrictions, and rates were consistent with the rest of the Littleton system. The letter to counsel included two further recommendations: (1) that all properties in the service area be required to connect to the system and (2) that rates reflect any changes Littleton may make to its pricing for multifamily housing. Lynch suggested that the previous demand estimate was about 300,000 gpd, and Clemence noted that Littleton themselves had not specified an amount to be provided. Lynch also noted the advantage of Boxborough owning its own well. The Committee, by a roll call vote of 5 to 0, authorized the Chair to send the revised letter and IMA markup to town counsel, with copies to the Town Administrator (moved by Fox, seconded by Lynch).

5. Proposed changes to Board of Health private well regulations. The Board of Health discussed this at their last meeting, which Fox and Keating-Connolly attended. Keating-Connolly suggested a public hearing might be appropriate. Discussion included mortgage requirements; maximum contaminant levels (MCL), which are required for public water systems (PWS) only; DEP imminent hazard thresholds; state Board of Health requirements; and Board of Health authority and jurisdiction.

6. Harvard Sportsmen's Club well removal. Clemence reported that the well contractor had not gotten back to him about wells to be removed. He will follow up.

7. Water line extension update. Fox reported that MassDOT is contributing \$6.5 million to the project.

8. Workplan: proposed scope for RFP. There was nothing to report at this time.

9. Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Lincoln Properties proposed Mass. Ave. Research Campus (MARC). Clemence reported that he had requested a hard copy of the DEIR, and Keating-Connolly noted there were two copies in the Town Planner's office. Comments are due by 5/10/2023.

10. MWRA regionalization study. Clemence briefly summarized the North service area report, one of two that MWRA has completed (the other being the South, with the West in progress). He noted that CDM Smith was conducting the studies, with Andy Miller as project manager. Fox reported that it was too late for Boxborough to participate in the study.

11. Future meeting schedule. The next meeting was scheduled for May 23, 2023, 7:30 PM, via Zoom. Fox noted that he would no longer be on the Select Board following the town election on 5/16/2023, and he hoped to become a WRC member at large.

12. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:17 PM on a roll call vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Clemence, seconded by Fox).

List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting. Draft minutes for March 21, 2022; Patch Hill monitoring well map and photo; draft IMA comment letter to counsel; draft IMA markup with tracked changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryon Clemence, Clerk