



## TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH Meeting Minutes

### **Boxborough Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2023 Approved on May 30, 2023**

The Agricultural Commission held its monthly meeting on April 25, 2023. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM at the Boxborough Museum, 575 Middle Road, Boxborough.

**Members present:** Owen Neville, Chair; Bryon Clemence, Clerk; Kathie Becker; Margaret Delano; John Neyland (late).

**Members absent:** None.

**Others present:** None.

**1. Review and approve minutes:** The Commission approved the minutes of March 7, 2023, as amended, by a vote of 4 to 0 (moved by Delano, seconded by Neville).

**2. Public participation:** None.

**3. Correspondence.** None.

**4. Annual Town Meeting Warrant.** The Commission authorized the Chair to speak on its behalf on the tree protection article, if it was not passed over, by a vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Becker, seconded by Delano).

**5. Community events/projects.** Becker provided an update on the Middlesex Conservation District, including an upcoming workshop on composting. Neville reported on planting Christmas trees at Steele Farm, citing a lack of success with trees that had been cut back. He also noted a slight uptick in Community Garden participation. Delano reported that Wachusett Community College offers a sustainable agriculture degree, promoting a discussion about offering a scholarship, like the local medical book scholarship. Delano also reported on the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Legislative Breakfast, including a table of their priorities, a landowner survey, and the Family Forestry Center at UMass.

**6. Invasive species.** Various invasive species were discussed. Delano suggested having a way to report their occurrence, and Clemence asked what other boards might be doing.

**7. 95/105 Sargent Road.** The on-site meeting with DPW was scheduled for 4/26/2023; Neville and Neyland will represent the Agricultural Commission. The Certificate of Title is complete, and the deadline for submitting grant material submission is 6/1/2023. The Conservation Restriction will go from the state and Sudbury Valley Trustees to the town. The Town Clerk had not gotten the management plan from Oxbow Associates, Inc. Neville to check tomorrow and will follow up on scheduling a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission.

**8. Open Space and Recreation Plan ((OSRP); discussion followed approval of minutes).** Neville and Delano attended the forum hosted by the Town Planner, Conservation Commission, and Recreation Commission. Delano suggested that a map of proposed projects would have been helpful, in addition to the table. Neville reported that these forums would continue and noted the lack of input to the plan, an inadequate process inherited by the Town Planner, and that OSRPs used to be good for seven years. Members reviewed a draft comment letter and authorized Clemence to revise it for Neville to submit to the Town Planner, by a vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Neyland, seconded by Becker).

**List of documents and other exhibits.** Draft minutes for March 7, 2023; Town Meeting Warrant; Massachusetts Farm Bureau Legislative Breakfast flyer, with summary of priorities; draft OSRP letter

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 7:30 PM, at Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM by a vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Becker, seconded by Neville).

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryon Clemence, Clerk