



## TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH Meeting Minutes

### **Boxborough Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes for May 30, 2023** Approved on June 13, 2023

The Agricultural Commission held its monthly meeting on May 30, 2023. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM in the Grange room of Town Hall, 29 Middle Road, Boxborough.

**Members present:** Owen Neville, Chair; Kathie Becker, Vice-Chair; Bryon Clemence, Clerk; Margaret Delano; John Neyland (8:01 PM).

**Members absent:** None.

**Others present:** None.

**1. Review and approve minutes:** The Commission approved the minutes of April 25, 2023, as amended, by a vote of 4 to 0 (moved by Becker, seconded by Delano). Discussion covered the state Attorney General's review and approval of general versus zoning bylaws.

**2. Public participation:** None.

**3. Correspondence.** Discussed under item no. 6 below.

**4. Annual Town Meeting recap.** Neville reported that the tree protection bylaw article passed after the amendment that he proposed to protect additional agricultural uses failed. The Commission should prepare changes to the bylaw for the Fall Town Meeting. Also discussed were the local election results.

**5. Local agricultural developments.** Batreau Lane residents contacted Delano and Neville about livestock they are planning to raise. Clemence reported that heavy frost on June 18, 2023 caused severe damage to asparagus and fruit in low lying areas.

**6. Community/Middlesex Conservation District (MCD) events.** Becker reported that MCD will hold another workshop on composting, to be held in Boxborough on June 22, for which she sent a flyer to members. MCD is suggesting a ten-dollar donation from attendees. The Commission approved an appropriation of forty dollars for its members to attend (moved by Neville, seconded by Clemence). The vote was 4 to 0, with one abstention. Becker also reported that the speaker MCD's annual meeting in July will be Richard Gelpke, a retired professor at UMass Boston and a resident of Hudson.

**7. Invasive species.** Becker provided a list of some invasive species, and Neville reported that a local horse farm found jumping worms in its manure piles. Delano thought they needed to be tracked, and Neville will talk to the Town Planner about how that might be done. He thought this would make a good speaker topic and noted that Sudbury Valley Trustees trains invasive eradicators.

**8. 95/105 Sargent Road.** Neville reported on efforts to schedule a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission and their completion of sign design and trail layout. Becker wondered whether fall Town Meeting could transfer money to an agricultural fund. Members approved and signed the Land Management Plan with Current Conditions Report, by a vote of 5 to 0, despite several issues pointed out by Neville (moved by Clemence, seconded by Becker). The Commission did not think it would be appropriate to hold a ribbon-cutting at the Boxborough Conservation Trust event on June 10.

**9. Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).** Neville reported that he delivered the Commission's comment letter to the Town Planner and would deliver it to CEI, the OSRP consultant. The OSRP will be included with the 95/105 Sargent Road package.

**List of documents and other exhibits.** Draft minutes for April 25, 2023; flyer for MCD composting workshop; invasive species list; Land Management Plan with Current Conditions Report for 95/105 Sargent Road.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 7:30 PM, at Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 PM by a vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Becker, seconded by Delano).

Respectfully submitted,  
Bryon Clemence, Clerk