



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH Meeting Minutes

Boxborough Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes for June 13, 2023

Approved on July 18, 2023

The Agricultural Commission held its monthly meeting on June 13, 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 (7:52 PM).

Members absent: None.

Others present: Susan Bak, Boxborough News.

- 1. Review and approve minutes:** The Commission approved the minutes of May 30, 2023, as amended, by a vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Becker, seconded by Delano).
- 2. Public participation:** Susan Bak, Boxborough News (until about 9:00 PM).
- 3. Correspondence.** Discussed under items no. 4 and 7 below.
- 4. Local agricultural developments.** Neville and Neyland reported that Minute Man Air Field will stop leasing farmland to one tenant and will lease all of its farmland to another (from an email forwarded by Neyland). A local farmer is now in assisted living. Neville noted that monitoring wells on the Patch Hill conservation land may have been installed to detect possible agricultural pollution.
- 5. Community/Middlesex Conservation District (MCD) events.** Neville reported that the Middlesex Conservation District (MCD) cannot invoice us for donations for its June 22 composting workshop. The date for the MCD annual meeting is July 17, to be held at the Boxborough library.
- 6. Invasive species.** Discussed below under the Forestry Management Plan for 95/105 Sargent Road.
- 7. 95/105 Sargent Road.**
 - a. Trail layout.** Neville attended the last Conservation Commission meeting and reported that their April minutes were incorrect regarding trails already laid out. He summarized Conservation Commission emails covering alternative trail layouts, including a section along the railroad right-of-way. They will designate members to work with the Agricultural Commission and invited Agricultural Commission members to an on-site meeting. Becker and Delano will try to be available. Delano suggested the parcel be named the Perkins-Campbell land to reflect the history of the land. : the owners who kept it open and maintained it in the form we enjoy today. She will prepare a description of why it's relevant. Neville will try to reach Phyllis Campbell.
 - b. Forestry Management Plan.** The Commission reviewed the Forestry Management Plan, covering the period 2017 to 2026. Forester John Robbins prepared the plan for the former owner, and the state certified it, as required by Chapter 61. Neville noted that logging of the two recommended stands was done in 2018, and Clemence noted that the land is no longer under Chapter 61, and the Plan may no longer apply. Neville noted that controlling invasive species is an ongoing task for the duration of the plan, however, and the Agricultural Commission and the Conservation Commission may find common ground there. He reminded everyone of the training offered by Sudbury Valley Trustees for eradicating invasive species and suggested this could benefit properties besides the Perkins-Campbell land.

List of documents and other exhibits. Draft minutes for May 30, 2023; email received by Neyland from Steven Cumming and forwarded to Neville; emails from Conservation Commission; Conservation Commission trail sketch; 2017-2026 Forestry Management Plan.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 7:30 PM, at Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM by a vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Becker, seconded by Delano).

Respectfully submitted,
Bryon Clemence, Clerk