

TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Meeting Minutes

Conservation Commission
June 16, 2021
7:30 Meeting
Grange Hall

Approved: July 7, 2021

Members Present: Dennis Reip (Chair), Dave Follett, Norm Hanover, David Koonce, Steve Schmitt, and Hoff Stuart

Members Absent: None

At 7:38 P.M. Dennis called the meeting to order. This is the first meeting in Grange Hall since March of 2020.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Norm and voted unanimously to approve with amendments (from Dennis) the minutes of May 19, 2021.

Motion was made by Dennis, seconded by Dave Follett and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 2, 2021.

Discussion of parking at Fort Pond Brook: The Commission had previously authorized the Department of Public Works (DPW) to create parking space for 2 cars at Fort Brook Pond as one of the goals in the Boxborough 2030 plan. Previously, there was only room to park on the road at the trailhead. DPW proceeded to remove sections of a stone wall and to cut down some trees. The parking is not across from anyone's house. The Conservation Commission received correspondence from residents near Fort Pond Brook stating that removing stone walls requires approval of the Planning Board. Dennis has directed DPW Director, Ed Kukkula, to cease work. Dennis will prepare an Application for stone wall removal on behalf of the Commission.

Land Stewardship Committee issue: Due to Covid19, DPW employees had not been taking vacation over the course of FY2021, and the Town has required them to take vacation before the end of FY2021 which has left the DPW short-handed for the month of June. Normally, this is an important time for mowing conservation land. The Commission is concerned that this is a public safety issue because of ticks and lyme disease and will contact DPW to ask for a high priority on this need as soon as possible. Dennis will send an email to DPW.

Dennis received correspondence from the Town Planner about the draft MS4 storm water regulations. The previous concern with the By-Law about the Select Board being responsible for approval even though the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission are normally responsible for this type of review was noted. There were no other comments on the proposed regulations.

Blanchard School Discussion: Order of Conditions 113-563 was issued to allow construction of a bridge at the school. The water is too high due to obstruction of the stone dam spillway that is preventing full flow through the opening. It is unclear whether the flooding is due to beaver activity or branches plugging up the spillway at the dam. If beavers are responsible, removal of the obstruction requires a declaration of emergency by the Board of Health (BOH) and an Emergency Certificate from the Conservation Commission. Liz Markiewicz (LanSCom) will be advised to contact the BOH to initiate the process.

Discussion of Enforcement Order at 650 and 674 Massachusetts Ave. Dennis sent an email with a July 15th deadline for the Owner to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) for correcting a wetlands violation on this property. On-going discussion with the Owner's representative has identified a circa 1999 filing that allowed the owners of 674 to build and/or maintain a cart path over the stream to allow access to a leach field in the back of the property. The current owners have installed a new longer culvert in the stream and dumped fill material to widen the cart path and extend it as a new access road to connect the two properties. The Owner's representative has also identified a possible interest in conducting work associated with the septic system leach field. There is no record that they contacted the Planning Board or the Conservation Commission before making this significant alteration to the wetland resource area and land use. The Enforcement Order directed the Owner to submit an NOI to restore the site.

At 8:50 P.M. motion was made by Dave Follett, seconded by Norm and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.