



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH Meeting Minutes

Boxborough Water Resources Committee Meeting Minutes for June 29, 2021 Approved July 28, 2021

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

Voting members absent: Mark Barbadoro.

Non-voting members present: John Neyland.

Others present: None

Public participation: None

The Water Resources Committee (WRC) held its regular meeting on June 29, 2021. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:43 PM in the Morse-Hilberg Meeting Rooms at Town Hall, 29 Middle Road, Boxborough.

Public Input, Emails, and Correspondence. Discussed under specific items below.

1. Approval of meeting minutes. The Committee approved the minutes of May 25, 2021, by a vote of 4 to 0 (moved by Schmitt, seconded by Lynch).

2. Well testing update (Town Hall, DPW and Hager wells; DEP private well testing program). Clemence presented a map of the PFAS testing results available to date, including the Acton Water District's wells on Massachusetts Avenue. The Committee discussed possible sources, and Lynch shared information about PFAS treatment from Montrose Environmental Group. Fox reported that about 80 people had signed up for 40 testing slots for private wells, according to the Assistant Town Administrator. Lynch reported that Enclave was constructing a third well due to high levels of iron and manganese (and possibly PFAS). The Zone 1 for the new well required endorsement of an ANR plan by the Planning Board. Enclave did not notify the Board of Health; the information came from other sources.

3. Management of Town Hall and DPW wells. Fox reported changes in testing of the Town Hall and DPW wells. Following initial testing conducted in May, DPW will now test quarterly for coliform and sodium, to be followed by annual testing if the quarterly results are acceptable.

4. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program. Clemence summarized the report prepared for the town with a grant from the state Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program (MVP). Areas of Concern include stormwater management, private water supply, and aquatic connectivity. The top two recommendations are to: (1) study road flooding and (2) identify alternative drinking water sources. There are some other water-related recommendations, and the report identifies potential funding sources. Fox wondered if a fall event was planned.

5. Fierra Meadows community garden well update. Clemence described the installation of a Bison hand pump for the new irrigation well constructed by the Agricultural Commission (Fox and Clemence assisted). The Commission plans to install a "do not drink" sign on the well. There was a question about who the current Select Board liaison is for the Agricultural Commission.

6. Cisco campus redevelopment and protection of water resources. Fox reported that Campanelli closed on the Cisco property. They may be planning to amend the site's groundwater discharge permit. Neyland to discuss continuation of the stakeholder's group with the Chair of the Economic Development Committee. Lynch noted that Campanelli has a development in Hudson.

7. Groundwater monitoring consulting services. Fox summarized a draft Request for Quotes. Lynch commented on possible monitoring wells. Clemence shared a graph of groundwater levels at 360 Burroughs Road, compared with the USGS sand and gravel well in Acton. Fox to check the Town's procurement policy.

8. Steps toward new source development and Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA). Fox presented a list of 11 steps for developing a new water source in the western part of town. Lynch suggested an additional task: coordination by the Select Board with the Legislature and the Governor's office for funding. Clemence recommended resolving whether the provisions that permitted a golf course have expired. Fox to contact Laurene Poland at MassDOT for an update. Clemence noted that a driller conducted geotechnical borings on the Rt. 111/495 bridge in June, suggesting that MassDOT's bridge replacement project is now in the design phase. Neyland indicated a need to "lock up" water supply sites for the town.

9. Other business. For anyone needing to be sworn in, Committee terms end on June 30 (also the Town Clerk's last day). The interim Town Administrator is scheduled to start on July 12, 2021. Lynch shared an email from a resident about biosafety, which the Select Board forwarded to the Board of Health. He will forward it to the Committee. Neyland noted an apparent conflict of interest concerning the Committee's vote in March approving input on the Vibralogics application before the Planning Board. Fox to follow up.

10. Future meeting schedule. The Committee will schedule its next meeting for July 27 or 28, 2021, at 7:30 PM, depending on when the Agricultural Commission is scheduled to meet.

11. Adjourn. The Committee adjourned at 10:45 PM on a vote of 4-0 (moved by Lynch, seconded by Schmitt).

List of documents and other exhibits used at the meeting. "PFAS Testing Results (ppt)" (map dated 2021-06-28); PFAS treatment information from Montrose Environmental Group; photos of hand pump installation at community garden; draft "Request for Quotes" for groundwater monitoring consulting services; "Water Levels at 360 Burroughs Rd. Mon. Wells" (graph); "Steps toward new western source development" (table); email from town counsel (2021-06-28); biosafety email from the Select Board to the Board of Health (June 28, 2021).

Respectfully submitted,
Bryon Clemence, Clerk