



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH Meeting Minutes

Boxborough Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes for September 26, 2023

Approved on October 10, 2023

The Agricultural Commission held its monthly meeting on September 26, 2023. The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM in the Hilberg room at Town Hall, 29 Middle Road, Boxborough.

Members present: Owen Neville, Chair; Kathie Becker, Vice-Chair; Bryon Clemence, Clerk; Margaret Delano; John Neyland.

Members absent: None.

Others present: None.

1. Review and approve minutes: The Commission approved the minutes of August 15, 2023, as amended, by a vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Becker, seconded by Delano).

2. Public participation: None.

3. Correspondence. Delano provided information on the Spotted lantern fly.

4. The Park at Beaver Brook Survey. The Committee completed the survey form (hardcopy), indicating no objections to the previously approved density, subject to preserving two currently unrestricted parcels for agricultural use, shown on a map, retaining existing open space and conservation lands, and allowing agricultural use on those lands to the extent permitted. By a vote of 5 to 0, the Committee approved the form and authorized Clemence to compile the responses and Neville to enter them into the online survey form (moved by Neyland and seconded by Neville).

5. Local agricultural developments. Neville provided an update on progress at the new farm on Barteau Lane, now in its third season, he thought. The Owners seeded the pasture with red and white clover; they have cattle, chickens, and bees; and they are looking into Chapter 61A designation. Another farmer reported issues with agricultural activities permitted under Chapter 61A.

6. Community/Middlesex Conservation District (MCD) events. Nothing to report.

7. Community Gardens/possible Community Preservation Act (CPA) application. Neville discussed the benefits of a permanent fence around part of the Community Garden at Flerra Field and the possibility of requesting CPA funds for it. Applications are due soon. The Commission discussed the need for a Conservation Commission rule change to allow this, and issues raised by neighbors in the past. Becker asked if immigrant populations participated this year, noting that they have in nearby towns. The Commission approved submittal of a "placeholder" funding request by a vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Clemence, seconded by Neyland).

8. 95/105 Sargent Road. Neville reported that the Land Stewardship Committee has held work parties for the trails, and it worked with the Chair of the Conservation Commission to resolve a trail location concern with an abutter on Littlefield Road.

9. Invasive species/SuAsCo Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area. Neville reported that the Conservation Commission had endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the SuAsCo Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, and he proposed that the Agricultural Commission

endorse it, as well (although the Conservation Commission's endorsement is sufficient for the Town to participate). By a vote of 5 to 0, the Commission accepted the wording proposed by Neville, approved its endorsement of the MOU, and authorized Neville to sign it (moved by Clemence, seconded by Delano).

10. Next meeting dates. The Commission scheduled its next meetings for the remainder of 2023: October 10, November 14, and December 12, at 7:30 PM, at Town Hall.

11. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM by a vote of 5 to 0 (moved by Neyland, seconded by Becker).

List of documents and other exhibits. Draft minutes for August 15; survey form for The Park at Beaver Brook; map of parcels.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryon Clemence, Clerk