

July 26, 2019

Mr. Peter Delaney, Chair
Boxford Conservation Commission
7A Spofford Pond Road
Boxford, Ma 01921

Dear Peter Delaney,

I feel it necessary to add to the public record regarding the current activities at Small Oxx Farm, and especially to state my position regarding the information presented during the July 11, 2019 meeting of the Conservation Commission. As you know, my family was not notified that the acreage would be clear cut, and if we had been, we think it is possible the outcome of that vote three years ago might have been different.

It is not the case that the neighborhood was supportive of the clear cutting to create additional agricultural fields. Having lived for the past 27 years within 50 feet of the area that was clear cut, we came to trust that the Permanent Conservation Restriction would be just that: permanent, focusing on conservation, and allowing only limited change. It was dismaying that we should wake up one morning in May to the sound of trees falling, and that that activity would continue for about 40 days. On top of that, it was shocking to us, when requesting information, that the Conservation Commission office limited what information it would provide. I want to thank you personally, Peter, for making more information on the process and the public records available to us.

At the meeting on July 11, the property owner stated that he was finished with cutting. I hope that any further changes to the Conservation Restriction will be reviewed in public meetings, and that those meetings and agendas will be posted. I know now that I cannot expect any abutter notification, but I do plan to attend future meetings regarding this property both for information they can provide and to let the Conservation Commission know how the changes affect not only the human neighbors, but also the flora and fauna of the hillside.

Sincerely yours,


Donna McArdle

421 Main Street
Boxford, MA 01921