

2 **Minutes of the TOWN OF BOXFORD SELECT BOARD**
3 **April 4, 2022 7:00 PM**
4 **Virtual Attendance Due to Coronavirus Pandemic**

6 *Select Board Members Present Remotely: Barbara Jessel, Peter Perkins, Mary Anne*
7 *Nay, Chuck Costello,*

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9 *Others Present Remotely: Town Administrator Matt Coogan, Minutes Secretary*
10 *Kathleen Valinch, Meredith Shaw, BCAtv Lance Cluster, and others*

12 **7:00 PM CALL TO ORDER**

13 Remote Call to Order

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15 **7:01 PM ROLL CALL**

16 **Town Administrator Matt Coogan called the roll:**

17 **Present:**

18 Select Board Member Chuck **Costello**

19 Select Board Member Mary Anne **Nay**

20 Select Board Vice-Chair Peter **Perkins**

21 Select Board Chair Barbara **Jessel**

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23 **7:02 PM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 24 • **Boxford Earth Day:** The Boxford Village Garden Club and the Boxford
25 Recycling Committee present Boxford Earth Day, which is to be held on
26 Saturday, April 30th from 11am-3pm. Residents are invited to collect litter around
27 town and drop off at the Recycling Center behind Town Hall. No household trash
28 permitted. Participants will receive a free Benson's Ice Cream after drop-off.
29 Paper shredding also to be held from 11:30 am- 2:30pm, one 1'x1'x2' box free
30 per resident. This is a rain or shine event.
- 31 • **Rapid Covid Tests Available:** The Town of Boxford has acquired additional
32 rapid at-home COVID antigen tests that are available for residents at no cost.
33 The iHealth COVID-19 antigen rapid kits each contain 2 tests. Due to the limited
34 number of tests currently available, residents will be limited 4 kits per household.
35 Tests can be picked in person on the following days and times: Monday through
36 Thursday, 9AM to 3 PM at the Health Department at Town Hall, 7A Spofford Rd.
37 Boxford seniors also have the option to pick up tests through the COA directly
38 during regular hours of operation.
- 39 • **Board of Health Update, April 1, 2022:** Statewide, new Covid cases increased
40 last week to 10,931 compared to 8,787 new cases two weeks ago (+24%%
41 compared to -6% two weeks ago). New hospitalizations for Covid decreased by
42 0.6% as compared to those hospitalized two weeks ago. Over the past week,
there were 9 new cases of Covid-19 in Boxford, as compared to 7 cases two

44 weeks' ago (1,354 total to date). The FDA and CDC have approved a second
46 Covid booster for those over the age of 50 and those younger than 50 with
coexisting conditions.

48 **7:05 PM MEETING WITH TRI-TOWN COUNCIL**

- **Discussion on Community-Wide Initiative:** Meredith Shaw from the Tri-Town Council spoke about their community-wide initiative, "Chasing Childhood". This movement believes that childhood free play and independence are absent in today's world, resulting in unprecedented anxiety and childhood depression. "Chasing Childhood" is a film that details psychologists, activists, and leaders of the "free play" movement fight to bring back to benefits of a less curated life for our kids that can lead to a stronger foundations and healthier life outcomes. Interested parties can screen the film on demand from April 28th – May 5th and share thoughts via an online form. Register at: tinyurl.com/TTCCChasingChildhood.

60 **7:13 PM MEETING WITH THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

- **Review CPC Recommended Projects and Town Warrant Meeting Articles:** Ross Povenmire lead the discussion on Warrant Articles 11-16 and the Select Board took the following actions:

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66 On a **MOTION** made by **Nay**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED** unanimously by roll call vote to recommend adoption of Article 11 as presented.

68 **Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):**

Chuck Costello: Yes
70 Mary Anne Nay: Yes
Peter Perkins: Yes
72 Barbara Jessel: Yes

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76 On a **MOTION** made by **Perkins**, second by **Jessel**, the Select Board **VOTED** 3:1 to recommend adoption of Article 12.

78 **Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):**

Chuck Costello: Yes
80 Mary Anne Nay: No
Peter Perkins: Yes
82 Barbara Jessel: Yes

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86 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Nay**, the Select Board **VOTED**
88 unanimously by roll call vote to recommend adoption of Article 14.

Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):

90 Chuck Costello: Yes
91 Mary Anne Nay: Yes
92 Peter Perkins: Yes
93 Barbara Jessel: Yes

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96 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Nay**, the Select Board **VOTED**
98 unanimously by roll call vote to recommend adoption of Article 15.

Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):

100 Chuck Costello: Yes
101 Mary Anne Nay: Yes
102 Peter Perkins: Yes
103 Barbara Jessel: Yes

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106 On a **MOTION** made by **Nay**, second by **Costello**, the Select Board **VOTED**
108 unanimously by roll call vote to recommend adoption of Article 16.

Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):

110 Chuck Costello: Yes
111 Mary Anne Nay: Yes
112 Peter Perkins: Yes
113 Barbara Jessel: Yes

114 **8:24 PM MEETING WITH PERSONNEL BOARD CHAIR TIM FEENEY**

- 116 • **Compensation Plan FY23:** The Personnel Board is proposing a 2% COLA
118 increase for those non-union, non-benefit eligible employees in addition moving
119 the scales 2% for the benefit-eligible employees. They are working with HRGOV
120 which is an HR consultant to provide a salary study. This will be useful for the
121 Select Board and for the Personnel Board to make further recommendations as
122 far as any salary adjustments or performance evaluations beginning in July for
the next fiscal year.

124 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED**
126 unanimously by roll call vote to recommend adoption of Article 3.

Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):

128 Chuck Costello: Yes

Mary Anne Nay: Yes
Peter Perkins: Yes
Barbara Jessel: Yes

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8:30 PM REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

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- **Approval of Common Victualler's License West Village Provisions, Boxford House of Pizza, and Benson's Ice Cream:**

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On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Nay**, the Select Board **VOTED** unanimously by roll call vote to approve the licenses as presented for West Village Provisions, Boxford House of Pizza, and Benson's Ice Cream.

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Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):

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Chuck Costello: Yes
Mary Anne Nay: Yes
Peter Perkins: Yes
Barbara Jessel: Yes

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- **31st Annual 2022 Boxford July 4th Road Race, BAA, Monday July 4, 2022:**

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The BAA's Road Race Director, Tobi Schaap, is requesting the Annual Fourth of July Road Race be held on Monday, July 4th 2022. He had originally requested Saturday July 2, but then spoke with police Chief Riter and learned that the Planning Committee would prefer the race be held on July 4th to coincide with the parade. The Select Board would like to confirm approval of the plans for the race by the police Chief and the fire Chief and will revisit this proposal on the meeting of April 25, 2022.

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- **Community Project Funding Request:** Congressman Seth Moulton reached out to municipalities organizations in the district to see if there were potential projects to receive earmarks in the next federal fiscal budget. Coogan spoke with a representative from Moulton's office, Kelly Bovio who is our liaison and discussed projects that may fit. The Cole School Project would be a good candidate for funding due to the need for accessibility, ADA compliance, storm water management and traffic safety and circulation. Another candidate could be one of the culverts on the critical culvert list. Congressman Moulton's office recommended no more than two projects and not more than \$1.5 million. Coogan has reached out to the schools so they can start prepping the language to apply and reached out to Chris Olbrot to see which of the culverts would be shovel ready to apply for funding.

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- **Health Insurance Rate Renewal 2023:**

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172 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Nay**, the Select Board **VOTED**
174 unanimously by roll call vote to authorize the Town Administrator to accept the
rates as published on the MIIA Health Benefits Trust schedule.

176 **Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):**

176 Chuck Costello: Yes
178 Mary Anne Nay: Yes
180 Peter Perkins: Yes
182 Barbara Jessel: Yes

- 184 • **Second Interim Investment Report:** Town Administrator Matt Coogan shared a
186 memo from Ellen Geurin which includes our investment report. No further
discussion or actions were taken.
- 188 • **Vote on Warrant Articles and Close May 10, 2022 Town Meeting Warrant:**

190 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Nay**, the Select Board **VOTED**
unanimously by roll call vote to sponsor Article 2.

192 **Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):**

194 Chuck Costello: Yes
196 Mary Anne Nay: Yes
Peter Perkins: Yes
Barbara Jessel: Yes

198 On a **MOTION** made by **Nay**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED**
unanimously by roll call vote to sponsor and support Article 7 as amended.

200 **Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):**

202 Chuck Costello: Yes
204 Mary Anne Nay: Yes
Peter Perkins: Yes
Barbara Jessel: Yes

206 On a **MOTION** made by **Nay**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED**
208 unanimously by roll call vote to approve and set this Warrant for Annual Town
Meeting Tuesday, May 10th 2022, at Masconomet Regional High School at 7pm.

210 **Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):**

212 Chuck Costello: Yes
Mary Anne Nay: Yes

214 Peter Perkins: Yes
Barbara Jessel: Yes

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218 On a **MOTION** made by **Nay**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED**
unanimously by roll call vote to close the Warrant for the Annual Town meeting of
220 May 10, 2022.

222 **Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):**

Chuck Costello: Yes
224 Mary Anne Nay: Yes
Peter Perkins: Yes
226 Barbara Jessel: Yes

228 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Perkins**, the Select Board **VOTED**
3:1 to reopen the Warrant.

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Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):

232 Chuck Costello: Yes
Mary Anne Nay: No
234 Peter Perkins: Yes
Barbara Jessel: Yes

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238 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Jessel**, the Select Board **VOTED**
3:1 to not recommend adoption of Article 25 and to have this stated on the
240 Warrant.

242 **Discussion:** Costello moves that the Select Board does not recommend
adoption of Article 25 and that this be stated on the Warrant. He adds that the
244 Board has hired qualified engineers to evaluate that intersection, as well as hiring
a peer review engineer. The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has
246 reviewed the intersection and evaluations with their engineers, as well. Costello
states that this has been a responsible process that the Board has embarked on
248 for almost a decade. He adds that the roadway itself is in abysmal shape,
culverts there are in dire condition as seen from another engineer's report where
250 our Town Engineer and DPW Superintendent engaged in a responsible process
to have those culverts evaluated and documented.

252 Perkins states that he does not feel strongly about how that area should be
controlled whether roundabout, light signal, or other, however, he states that
254 there has been a lot of time and funding spent on this and he would not want to
see it all go to waste. He notes that he has no issue with an initiative petition, as
256 it is the residents' right. Nay states that a lot of work has already been done on

258 this, however, feels that as a Town Meeting, everyone has a right to put a petition
on the Town Warrant and to speak at Town Meeting.

260 **Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):**

260 Chuck Costello: Yes

262 Mary Anne Nay: No

Peter Perkins: Yes

264 Barbara Jessel: Yes

266 On a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, second by **Jessel**, the Select Board **VOTED**
not to recommend adoption of Article 26.

268 **Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):**

270 Chuck Costello: Yes

Mary Anne Nay: Yes

272 Peter Perkins: Yes

Barbara Jessel: Yes

276 On a **MOTION** made **Costello**, second by **Nay**, the Select Board **VOTED**
unanimously to close the Warrant.

278 **Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):**

280 Chuck Costello: Yes

Mary Anne Nay: Yes

282 Peter Perkins: Yes

Barbara Jessel: Yes

286 **9:19 PM ADJOURN**

288 On a **MOTION** made by **Jessel**, second by **Nay**, the Select Board **VOTED**
unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn.

290 **Roll Call (Called by Minutes Secretary Kathleen Valinch):**

292 Chuck Costello: Yes

Mary Anne Nay: Yes

294 Peter Perkins: Yes

Barbara Jessel: Yes

296 **NEXT MEETING: April 25, 2022: Regularly scheduled meeting**

298 Respectfully Submitted,

300 Kathleen A. Valinch
Minutes Secretary

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