

TOWN OF BOXFORD
MASSACHUSETTS
01921

OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

December 16, 2014

Charles A. Swanson
4 Wildmeadow Road
Boxford, MA 01921

Re: Holmes Pond

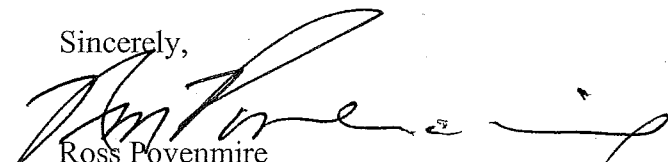
Dear Mr. Swanson,

This office has received your faxes of 12/11/2014 and 12/14/2014. We have attempted to reach you by return fax and do not know if you have received our reply. We have also attempted to contact you by phone but were unable to leave a message.

In response to your complaint we requested the Boxford DPW to investigate the dam at Holmes Pond and to clear debris from the spillway. Rob Dole, DPW Foreman, reports that this was done.

I have placed this matter on the agenda for the Conservation Commission for discussion at the Conservation Commission meeting to be held Thursday, December 18th, Meeting Room #1, at 7:30 p.m.

Sincerely,


Ross Povenmire
Conservation Director

sent by mail 12-16-2014

Phone: (978) 887-6000 x506 / Fax: (978) 887-0758
7A Spofford Road, Boxford, MA 01921

Charles Swanson
4 Wildmeadow Rd
Boxford MA 01921

Board of Selectmen
Boxford MA

Dear Sirs,

Does the buck stop here? If a part of Boxford Government acts recklessly to cause harm, is that an occasion for Boxford selectmen to become involved? Do the Boxford selectmen have an interest in avoiding litigation?

There are actually several other issues where Boxford has caused harm to my interests and those of other Boxford residents; but I do not wish to dilute the discussion right now.

In 2008 I bought my house on 4 Wildmeadow Rd. It abuts Holmes Pond. I had some sense that I might want to have some voice in "conservation" matters to balance possibly extremist views there. I wrote a nice letter volunteering to serve on the conservation committee. Boxford did not have the courtesy to make a reply.

About the time I bought the house, the Boxford conservation commission acted to raise the level of Holmes Pond. Since several houses are a foot or less above pond level and one house is unfit to be sold because of water issues (according to it's owner), I was a bit surprised by Boxford acting to make things worse.

Then the beavers came. I wrote a letter to Boxford calling attention to a serious problem here, again no courtesy of a reply. But maybe someone read it? I have had a DPW truck and worker appear in my yard with some regularity and dismantle the beaver dams, leaving the wood in a pile, and cutting a path through my yard. The Boxford conservation commission also decided to build a metal cage in the spillway, which deterred the beavers not at all, and served as a scaffold for debris and beavers to potentially raise the pond level another foot or more. This cage also served to block the only easy access to the remainder of my property on the other side of the spillway.

Bottom line: the pond was managed by the previous owners of the property in a way that did not further endanger the residents. Since then, the Boxford conservation commission has acted in a reckless and incompetent matter that threatens the health, safety, and property values of the neighborhood.

I have written the conservation commission requesting that they immediately return the pond to it's previous level and remove the wire cage in the spillway which compounds the problem. I have this recurrent nightmare imagining they respond, that "they're the conservation commission, they're only concerned about the welfare of salamanders and beavers". I guess we will find out.

The last storm caused considerable water damage to my basement, I will be reviewing seeking restitution from the town of Boxford.

Furthermore: Hey guys! Boxford approved this development! The spillway of Holmes Pond is inadequate to manage storm conditions. I request that Boxford engage a civil engineer to study water levels and rebuilding the Holmes Pond dam in a way that lessens storm flooding damage in

the neighborhood. (This would clearly be wider and lower. Need I repeat? ****lower****.)
Responsible town government? I also request that the town of Boxford keep me informed in
writing about all actions – which they have not done up to now.

Sincerely,



Charles A Swanson

12/12/2014

12/15/2014

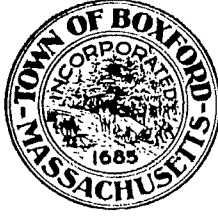
Called 978-887-3543
left message on phone?
11:50 a.m.

12/16/2014

10:40 a.m.
mailbox full

Call DPW
Talked to Rob
Dole, He will
check out the
Pond Today

12-16-2014



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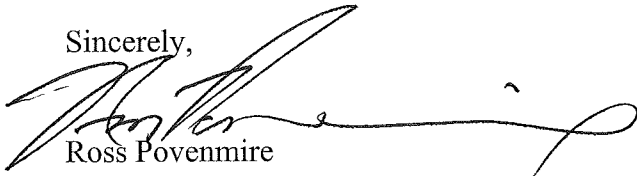
Charles A. Swanson
4 Wildmeadow Road
Boxford, MA 01921

Re: Holmes Pond

Dear Mr. Swanson,

This office received your fax this morning and has forwarded the information to the Boxford Department of Public Works for action as appropriate to clear the outfall of debris. You did not include a telephone number in your letter, otherwise I would have called you.

Sincerely,

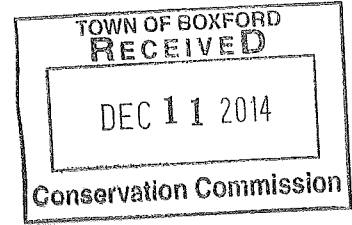


Ross Povenmire

faxed to 978-462-0145 12-11-2015

Phone: (978) 887-6000 x506 / Fax: (978) 887-0758
7A Spofford Road, Boxford, MA 01921

Charles Swanson
4 Wildmeadow Rd
Boxford MA 01921



Time 9:52 AM

Conservation Commission

Dear sirs,

I am having serious flooding from the recent storm.

I am writing to request that the Conservation Commission take immediate action and remove the board and the wire cage from the outflow of Holmes Pond.

I assume that Boxford must have believed it had some good reason to elevate the level of the pond in 2008 or so. The fact is that at least 3 houses are within 1 foot of pond level on a good day; and scarcely above pond level at all on a bad day. Furthermore the outflow is inadequate to provide for storm conditions.

Raising the pond level of Holmes Pond was done with reckless disregard of consideration of health safety and property values in the neighborhood.

The addition of a wire cage was wrong-headed and incompetent and only served exacerbate the problem.

I hope that Boxford and the Conservation Commission will act promptly and responsibly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles A Swanson".

Charles A Swanson

12/11/2014