

History of Airport Study Committee in Boxborough

The Airport Study Committee (ASC) was formed by the Board of Selectmen (BOS) in July 1993. The ASC was formed to study various proposed changes to land use in the Town of Boxborough by Minute Man Air Field (MMAF) and to report to affected boards and committees within the Town. Over the fifteen years the ASC has been in existence the committee has examined a number of proposed plans submitted by MMAF and its representatives and provided a summary to the BOS and other Boards for their official comments for the plans.

In addition the ASC has always provided reference materials and the consistent language on the zoning and land use issues for the BOS and the other impacted Boards.

Mission of Airport Study Committee

The Airport Study Committee (ASC) is a five-member committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to monitor Minute Man Air Field (MMAF) projects that may impact the Town of Boxborough.

The committee is charged to report its findings to the Board of Selectmen and any other impacted boards or committees within the town.

Time Line of Events

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| May 10, 1983 | Town of Boxborough passes Zoning By Law prohibiting airports and their accessory use in the Town of Boxborough |
| July 22, 1983 | Massachusetts Attorney General Bellotti approves Boxborough's Zoning By Law |
| April 16, 1985 | Chapter 90, Section 39 B of Massachusetts amended to give Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission (MAC) authority to review changes to Zoning By Laws that impact aviation in Massachusetts |
| January 23, 1989 | Master Plan for MMAF published with conflicting references to the location of MMAF. |
| October 28, 1991 | Runway End Indicator Lights (REILS) installed at Boxborough end of runway at MMAF |
| March 4, 1992 | MMAF purchase of land within the Town of Boxborough |
| July 28, 1993 | Town Planner letter to Town of Boxborough Board of Selectmen (BoS) stating opinion of Planning Board that MMAF proposed runway safety area (RSA) in the Town of Boxborough is an un-allowed use. |

July 1993	Town of Boxborough Airport Study Committee (BASc) formed.
August 31, 1993	BoS letter to Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) stating position that MMAF proposed RSA are violation of Town Zoning By Law.
February 17, 1994	Kopelman and Paige provides opinion to BoS on validity of Zoning By Law and assertion that RSA and other proposed improvements for MMAF are not allowed within the Town of Boxborough
March 30, 1994	Kopelman and Paige provide opinion to MAC that the Town of Boxborough Zoning By Law is valid.
May 19, 1994	Town of Boxborough Building Inspector notifies MMAF of zoning violation.
August 19, 1994	Town of Boxborough Building Inspector gives second notice to MMAF of zoning violation.
November 3, 1994	Boxborough Board of Appeals posts notice of hearing on zoning violation at MMAF for November 17, 1994
November 9, 1994	Pickett and Miyares send notice to Boxborough Board of Appeals that MMAF will forgo the Boxborough Board of Appeal hearing and take the issue to Land Court.
September 28, 1995	MEPA Certificate issued on Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for proposed Five Year Safety Improvement Plans (SIP) for MMAF stating problem with unresolved zoning issue between MMAF and the Town of Boxborough.
June 2, 1997	BASc provides comment to MEPA for BoS on Final EIR (FEIR)
June 16, 1997	MEPA Certificate issued on Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for proposed Five Year Safety Improvement Plans (SIP) for MMAF stating continued problem with unresolved zoning issue between MMAF and the Town of Boxborough.
June 2, 2002	Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for MMAF released including proposals for RSA and associated tree clearing within the Town of Boxborough
June 2003	MEPA Tracking of CIP for MMAF noted.
September 18, 2003	MMAF provides notice to Town of Boxborough Conservation Commission (Cons Com), BoS and BASc of upcoming filing of Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) and

Vegetative Management Plan (VMP) impacting the Town of
Boxborough

October 29, 2003	ANRAD filed for MMAF with Cons Com
January 28, 2004	BASc provides comment letter to Cons Com concerning issues with ANRAD filing.
February 17, 2004	Cons Com Issuance of Resource Area Delineation for land in the Town of Boxborough abutting MMAF.
June 2005	Draft for 2005-2009 Vegetation Management Plan (VMP)
Jan 2006	Final Vegetation Management Plan
March 2006	Board of Health Comment on VMP elements impacting water quality
April 2006	Cons Com Hearing on VMP delayed due filing fee regulation
Feb 2007	MMAF notified Boxborough Cons Com intent to begin work on VMP elements in the Town of Boxborough
March 2007	Boxborough Cons Com filed temporary restraining order to prohibit MMAF from completing VMP in Boxborough
April 2007	Board of Selectmen entered into a settlement agreement with MMAF
May 2007	Boxborough Cons Com Hearing on VMP Opens
Aug 2007	MMAF Request to close Cons Com Hearing
Aug 2007	Cons Com Issues Order of Conditions for VMP elements in Boxborough
Nov 2007	MMAF files for civil action against the Town Boxborough and Boxborough Cons Com regarding the Cons Com Order of Conditions seeking \$4,500,000 in damages.