

Charlestown Agricultural Preservation Committee
April 28, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:12PM by President Noel Rowe in the parking lot, as the door was locked and no Janitor was in the building.

2. Those present were Noel Rowe, Michael Merner, Susan Barrett, Cody Clarkin and John Barrett.

3. The minutes of the previous meeting on 2/10/2021 were reviewed and approved.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

Cody Clarkin, our new Charlestown Town Council liaison was in attendance. He was enthusiastically welcomed by all.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

The Charlestown Comprehensive Plan was discussed. In particular, we heard from Cody Clarkin who analyzed the land uses as active (regular planned uses such as ballfields etc. where people go regularly) and passive (recreational use where people can go on the land for hiking, bird watching, natural resource enjoyment etc. but do not go regularly or in great numbers and where there are no permanent structures to support them).

Additionally, Cody discussed the Council's efforts to take surveys on the Comprehensive Plan. In 2015 a survey went out but had a low turnout. The next survey is going out to the general Charlestown public in late May or early June. Hopefully, the response to this survey will be much better.

Michael Merner said Jane Durning was interested in using her land as a recreational vehicle destination for people to 24 hours in their self contained RV. Mike suggested that Jane appear at the next meeting with her list of what she would like to see happen so CAPC can discuss it.

Noel noted that the current limit on houses in family compounds on farms is set at five houses. He noted that this is probably adequate for our town.

There was a discussion about Charlestown helping new farmers get started by leasing them land. Cody noted that some of the land owned by the town was earmarked for purposes which would preclude farming on it. Mike Merner mentioned that leasing land for farming was complicated. Access to water is needed, enriching the soil takes time and money which is lost if the lease is not renewed.

Noel again brought up the topic of housing for farm workers and asked about regulations for this. Cody Clarkin said he would do some research on the topic of housing 1 farm worker on the farm. Cody will see what is actually written about that as of this date.

6. **Public Comments-** There were none.

7. **Adjournment-** After setting the date of our next meeting for July 14,2021, Noel Rowe motioned for adjournment. John Barrett seconded and the meeting ended at 8P