



**Town of Cromwell
Farmland Preservation Committee**

*SPECIAL MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2010
ROOM 219 CROMWELL TOWN HALL
41 WEST STREET*

RECEIVED FOR FILING
9-23 2010 at 3:00 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.

Jean Adquist
TOWN CLERK

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call and Seating of Alternates**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Public Comments**
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. Discuss Mandated Goals and Objectives:
 1. Study existing farms.
 2. Develop a farmland preservation strategy.
 3. Identify farmland properties for preservation.
6. **New Business:**
7. **Communications:**
8. **Commissioners Comments:**
 - a. Reschedule November meeting
 - b. Discuss pending Conservation Easement site visits
9. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. July 8, 2010
10. **Adjourn**

Memo

To: Farmland Preservation Committee
From: Craig Minor, AICP
Town Planner 
Date: September 24, 2010
Re: Farmland Preservation Committee meeting of September 30, 2010

Note that we are starting at 6 pm tonight.

5. Old Business:

a. Discuss Mandated Goals and Objectives:

1. Study existing farms.

Since the last meeting the Committee has visited several more farms: the Ruske Farm at 64 Evergreen Road, and the Weidler farm at 512 Main Street.

2. Develop a farmland preservation strategy.

Does the Committee feel that we have visited enough Cromwell farms to have the knowledge base necessary to start working on a preservation strategy appropriate for Cromwell? If so, please review your notes, handouts, etc. and come to the meeting prepared to discuss what should go into a strategy.

3. Identify farmland properties for preservation.

I believe the Committee has visited all the "farms" in Cromwell and can begin discussing this task. The first step would be defining what "preservation" means in this context, and what the various methods there are to "preserve" farmland. .

b. Farmer's Market at Riverport Festival

I put this on the agenda so the Committee could discuss how it went, and whether we want to do it again next year.

8. Commissioners Comments:

a. Reschedule November meeting

The second Thursday in November is Veterans' Day and Town Hall is closed. Please come to the meeting with your calendars prepared to select a re-scheduled date.

cc::
file



**Town of Cromwell
Farmland Preservation Committee**

**REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2010
ROOM 219 CROMWELL TOWN HALL
41 WEST STREET**

RECEIVED FOR FILING
7-13 2010 at 8:45 AM.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.

Jean Augustine
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES

PRESENT: John Whitney, Joe Corlis, John Pinney, Joe Cap

ABSENT: Chairman Scott Lamberson, Sairah Sandhu

ALSO PRESENT: Town Planner Craig Minor and BOS Liaison Allan Spotts

1. **Call to Order:** Vice Chairman John Whitney called the meeting to order at 7:08p.m.
2. **Roll Call and Seating of Alternates:** The above-mentioned members were introduced. There were no alternates present.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Mr. Corlis and seconded by Mr. Cap to approve the agenda and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.*
4. **Public Comments:** None.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. Discuss Mandated Goals and Objectives:

1. Study existing farms:

Commission members plan to visit two farms on the weekend of July 24 & 25. Mr. Minor will contact the farms to make arrangements. Commission members choose to visit Ruske, McIntyre and Weidler farms.

2. Develop a farmland preservation strategy:

Mr. Whitney reviewed the P&Z zoning regulations and didn't find anything that stood out as being farm un-friendly. Mr. Minor stated that the current definition of a farm is five acres and is not aware of any change to the new regulations that are in the process of approval. Mr. Whitney is aware of farms that are smaller than the size stated and knows of people that sell their produce in front of their house from their gardens. Mr. Minor believes that if there is livestock being raised, it would have to be at least five acres. Mr. Minor will check to make sure that the

regulations state that farms are allowed to be in residential areas.

3. Identify farmland properties for preservation: Not ready to do at this time because visits have not been completed.

b. Farmer's Market at Riverport Festival: Mr. Spotts has not heard from any Cromwell farms that are interested in being represented at the Riverport and will be contacting farms outside Cromwell. Mr. Spotts will contact the farms that go to Covenant Village on a weekly basis to see if they are interested. Mr. Whitney asked if the commissioners would be interested in having literature available from the USDA and the Farm Bureau to hand out at the booth. Mr. Minor will pursue this. Mr. Corlis is looking forward to letting residents know how much farming exists in Cromwell today. Mr. Minor suggested taking photos of the farms and having a display in the booth. Mr. Minor asked that commission members revisit farms from prior visits and take photos. A suggestion was made to include photos of farms that no longer exist.

6. **New Business:** None

7. **Communications:**

a. Progress Report dated June 14, 2010: Included in agenda packet.

8. **Approval of Minutes**

a. June 10, 2010: A **motion** was made by Mr. Corlis and **seconded** by Mr. Cap to approve the minutes of June 10, 2010 and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

9. **Adjourn:** A **motion** was made by Mr. Corlis and **seconded** by Mr. Cap to adjourn at 7:28p.m. and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,


Catherine Potter
Clerk

**Town of Cromwell
Farmland Preservation Committee**

SPECIAL MEETING
9:00 A.M. SATURDAY JULY 24, 2010
STARTING AT 64 EVERGREEN ROAD
CROMWELL, CT

RECEIVED FOR FILING
7/26 2010 at 8:38 A.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.

MINUTES

Darlene A. DiProto
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: Chairman Scott Lamberson, Joe Corlis, John Whitney and Joe Cap

ABSENT: Sairah Sandhu

ALSO PRESENT: Town Planner Craig Minor

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Lamberson called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.
2. **Roll Call and Seating of Alternates:** The above-mentioned members were introduced. There were no alternates present.
3. **Farm Visits at:**
 - a. 64 Evergreen Road (Joseph and Bernice Ruske): A tour was given by son, Matt Ruske, of the farm. The farm was started in 1960. There are twelve acres of contiguous farmland including the pond, five acres of pasture, .25 acres of corral and one acre of wetlands. There are several outbuildings including a barn, storage areas and lean-to's that also serve as shelter for the animals in the winter. The farm is currently raising cows, llamas and chickens. Mr. Ruske has grown pussy willows in the past and has sold them. Mr. Ruske is exploring ways to become a niche farmer and offer something unique that will make money for the farm.
 - b. 512 Main Street (Gerhard and Carole Weidler): A tour was given by son, Michael Weidler, of the farm. The farm was started in 1971 and is a total of 31 acres most of which is woods. There are four barns/sheds including a chicken coop. The Weidler's mostly grow vegetables to feed themselves but do give some away. There is a large pond on the property that supplied an ice house in the past and there are Christmas trees that are 'cut your own'. Mr. Weidler is thinking about ways to expand his farming and introduce new techniques to farming and pond maintenance.
4. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned by general consent at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Potter
Catherine Potter
Clerk