



**Town of Cromwell  
Farmland Preservation Committee**

**REGULAR MEETING  
7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2009  
ROOM 219 CROMWELL TOWN HALL  
41 WEST STREET**

RECEIVED FOR FILING  
5-10 2010 at 1:52 P.M.  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
CROMWELL, CONN.

*Jan Ahlgren Cost*  
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:**
  - a. Farmer's Market at Riverport Festival
7. **Communications:** none
8. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. April 29, 2010
9. **Adjourn**

# Memo

**To:** Farmland Preservation Committee  
**From:** Craig Minor, AICP  
Town Planner  
**Date:** May 10, 2010  
**Re:** Farmland Preservation Committee meeting of May 13, 2010

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## 5. Old Business:

- a. Discuss Mandated Goals and Objectives:
  1. Study existing farms.

I just read the minutes from the April 29 meeting, which I could not attend, and I read that you did not chose which farms you want to visit next. I had asked you to do this so I could then call the owners of those specific farms to setup the visit. At the meeting this week, please chose the farms that you want to visit on Sunday, May 16 and I will try to get in touch with them on Friday. Please bring the list of farms which I distributed last month to the meeting.

2. Develop a farmland preservation strategy.

Please come to the meeting prepared to discuss the various programs covered in the publications that were distributed at the March 11 meeting.

3. Identify farmland properties for preservation.

This item has been tabled until we complete our study of existing farms in Cromwell.

cc:  
file

Town of Cromwell  
Farmland Preservation Committee

SPECIAL MEETING  
7:00P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2010  
ROOM 219 CROMWELL TOWN HALL  
41 WEST STREET  
MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR FILING  
5-3-2010 at 8:48 AM.  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
CROMWELL, CONN.

*Jean Augustine Coste*  
TOWN CLERK

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

**ABSENT:** Ernest Pandolfe Jr.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Board of Selectman Liaison Allan Spotts

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Lamberson called the meeting to order at 7:10p.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. Whitney 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:** The commission decided to try and visit farms on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a.m. and will wait for news from Mr. Minor on which of the smaller farms is willing to host the commission.

**2. Develop a Farmland Preservation Strategy:** Mr. Whitney asked if the town has a 'Right to Farm' allowance. Mr. Whitney explained that this would allow homeowners the right to farm as long as they meet the requirements and neighbors wouldn't be able to object. Mr. Whitney also stated that he learned that the State has a program to help farmers with constructing greenhouses to expand their growing season. Mr. Whitney also asked about other programs that would be farm friendly and Chairman Lamberson stated that the focus is to preserve farm land but that those issues could be looked at if they are a barrier to current farms. Chairman Lamberson would like to look at more State and Federal grants to help preserve farms. Mr. Whitney agrees that it would be a beneficial plan to apply for grants with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Spotts suggested trying to contact the CT Farm Bureau and the Middlesex Extension Service for information. Chairman Lamberson suggested finding out where the farms go to sell their produce/wares. Chairman Lamberson would like to come up with a way to educate residents on the importance of retaining farms and farming in Cromwell. Chairman Lamberson would like to look at finding out more information about development rights. Mr. Whitney asked what type of funding for farms is available in town and Mr. Spotts stated that there isn't any at this time.

**3. Identify Farmland for Preservation:** Tabled.

**6. New Business:** Mr. Spotts mentioned that the Riverport Festival committee would like to have a farmer's market on the Saturday (August 28<sup>th</sup>) of the festival and asked for assistance from the commission to find out if the local farmers are interested in participating. Mr. Spotts also stated that there is interest in resurrecting the pie baking contest from the days of the Rose Town Festival. Chairman Lamberson thinks it's a great idea. Mr. Whitney, Mr. Corlis and Chairman Lamberson offered to make calls to farms to gauge their interest.

Mr. Corlis attended a meeting of the Land Trust Alliance representing several towns in CT at Holcomb Farm. The meeting was about setting up a plan for land that becomes part of a trust. Mr. Corlis brought back two books that will be available in Mr. Minor's office on Conservation Stewardship and Land Trust maintenance. Chairman Lamberson would like the development of a Cromwell land trust put on the next agenda.

Mr. Spotts stated that an agenda item for the last Board of Selectman regarding Open Space was tabled because the Board would like someone from the Conservation Commission to speak at the meeting. Mr. Corlis offered to provide information for the next meeting the item is on the agenda. Mr. Minor will do a presentation and Mr. Corlis will provide additional information.

**7. Communications: None.**

**8. Approval of Minutes:**

a. **March 11, 2010:** A motion was made by Mr. Corlis and **seconded** by Mr. Whitney to approve the minutes of March 11, 2010 and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

b. **March 28, 2010:** A motion was made by Mr. Corlis and **seconded** by Ms. Sandhu to approved the minutes of March 28, 2010 and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

**9. Adjourn:** A motion was made by Mr. Corlis and **seconded** by Mr. Whitney to adjourn at 8:15p.m. and was *unanimously approved. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Potter

Clerk