

Minutes of Charlestown Agricultural Preservation Commission Meeting

January 18, 2017

Present: Noel Rowe, Susan Barrett, Michael Merner, John Barrett

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM by President Noel Rowe.
2. A quorum was present.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting on October 19, 2016 were reviewed. Susan Barrett moved and Michael Merner seconded to approve them. They were unanimously approved.
4. OLD BUSINESS: Susan Barrett and Noel Rowe indicated continued effort to contact new alternate members. No new people attended this session.
Candidates who wish to serve will be invited to future sessions.
5. Correspondence: Susan Barrett distributed a letter from Pam Lyons which gave information on the proposed Federal Railway Administration NEC "Old Saybrook to Kenyon Bypass". Discussion on the matter followed. It became clear that the bypass would destroy several farms and open space lands which are supposedly protected in perpetuity.
Those at risk are the Amos Green Farm, the Stony Hill Farm, and the Carter preserve. Also affected are portions of the neighborhoods of Burdickville Road, Shumankanuc Hill Road, Columbia heights and many other private properties.
Michael Merner proposed that we as a Commission draft a letter declaring ourselves opposed to this bypass. Susan Barrett seconded the motion. Agreement was unanimous.
The committee agreed with the Charlestown Town Council's resolution against the bypass which was passed January 10, 2017. President Noel Rowe agreed to write a letter to Amtrak on behalf of the Agricultural Preservation Committee stating our opposition to the bypass and our support for the Town Council's resolution of January 10, 2017
6. NEW BUSINESS: No new members attended so no nominations of new alternate members were made.
7. Public comment: There was none.
8. Adjournment: Susan Barrett moved and Michael Merner seconded adjournment. It was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 7:59PM.

APPROVED April 12, 2017