

CHARLESTOWN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CHARLESTOWN TOWNHALL; VAULT AREA
4540 SOUTH COUNTY TRAIL, CHARLESTOWN, RI 02813

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015

Present: Noel Rowe, Fritz Vohr, Mike Merner, Nancy Hedgpeth, Susan and John Barrett; and Nancy Viseth of Shannock Rd., Charlestown was also present.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by commission chair, Noel Rowe.
2. A quorum was present.
3. The minutes from the meeting of April 22, 2015 were reviewed. Fritz moved, and Mike seconded, to approve them. They were unanimously approved with no abstentions.
4. Old Business: The list of farms on the town's web page - which has just been updated - were reviewed, and further changes were made to continue the update process. Noel recorded the changes/updates to be made, and will communicate them with the town's webmaster. Any further changes/ updates will be communicated to Noel as they appear.
5. Correspondence: Noel reported no new correspondence.
6. New Business: The commission reviewed the town council's decision to not support the state bill regarding events on farms. It appears that the council's issue was about maintaining local control of town zoning decisions rather than having the state mandating local events. This commission is sympathetic to that view. This commission supports the local Right to Farm Act that would allow farms to hold events as part of agri-tourism and that would support farm income in keeping with farm activities. This commission respects the rights of a farm's neighbors to be treated with consideration by using best management practices for farms.
7. Public Comment: There was none.
8. Fritz Vohr is moving to Florida and will be resigning as vice chair of this committee July 31 2015. We thanked him for his years of dedication and for all of his contributions to not only the town and to this Agricultural Preservation Commission but to years of supporting NOFA and to good agriculture in this town and at the prisons of Rhode Island. We have been fortunate to have him here, and we wish him and his wife much happiness and satisfaction in their next chapter.
9. Adjournment: Fritz moved and Nancy seconded adjournment. It was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 7 pm in the Vault Area of Town Hall will have to be rescheduled for Wednesday November 14th, 2015 as the commission chair will be out of town on October 14th.