

**THE GLASTONBURY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023**

The Glastonbury Agriculture Advisory Committee, with Jonathan Luiz, Town Manager, Thomas Gullotta, Town Council Chairman, Lawrence Niland, Town Council Vice Chairman, John Cavanna, Councilman, and Gary Haynes, Planner, in attendance, held a Special Meeting at 6:00 P.M in Meeting Room A of Town Hall at 2155 Main Street.

**1. ROLL CALL**

**Commission Members Present**

Andrew Reale  
Kenneth Horton  
Chris Bassette  
Michael Longo  
Hutchinson Bronzi  
Donald Preli  
William Dufford

**Commission Members Absent**

None

Meeting was called to order at 6:12 P.M.

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**2. New Business**

**a. ARPA Funds:**

Jonathan Luiz gave brief description to the committee on the potential for using ARPA Funds to help provide relief to Glastonbury Farmers. The town has used ARPA funds for small businesses, and Town Council has discussed utilizing left-over ARPA funds to provide a similar program to provide relief for Glastonbury Farmers. Committee Board members discussed using ARPA funds as an option to reduce property taxes.

Farmers in attendance explained back in the 1980's the State offered twenty-four thousand dollars an acre, but land costs in the Town of Glastonbury are much higher so the State is not interested in paying the high cost of development rights in Glastonbury. Thomas Gullotta said the Town of Glastonbury historically has paid 80% of the value of the property for the purchase of development rights. The Town has also worked with farmers to purchase development right and lease the land back to the farmer to help preserve local farms. Chris Bassette explained farmers with land in the floodplain don't have the benefit of selling development rights of their land because the land carries lower value due to lack of development potential. Farmers spoke of the importance they add to the community by increasing the quality of life. They said the Town continues to support open space preservation but not the farmers.

Councilman and Committee Members discussed ways to lower the burden financially on farmers, such as potential tax abatement, and possibility on including an abatement for the residential dwelling on which the farm is located. Thomas Gullotta said the Committee Members should talk and get back to the Town Manager on defining a farm, and what would be necessary to qualify for ARPA funds. Several members suggested utilizing Schedule F designation, minimum acreage, and identifying crop losses as some potential criteria for applying. Committee members agreed to discuss and get back to the Town Manager and Town Council with their thoughts.

**b. Other Opportunities to Assist and Provide Relief for Glastonbury Farmers:**

Jonathan Luiz is having the assessor investigate further exemptions for farmers. .

With no further comments or questions, meeting adjourned 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Haynes

Planner