

Town of Caroline Community Workshop
“Preserving Caroline’s Rural Character”
January 12th, 2018
Recommended Actions

Farming

- Explore additional tax relief for farms (example: drop fire tax from farmland, other abatements)
- Publicize that Caroline is a “Right to Farm” community (for example, with roadside signs, on town website, ...)
- Town should take a role in exploring and providing information on what grants are available to help small farms.
- Town should do what it can to make sure farms in town are eligible for receiving grants.
- Town should engage with Cooperative Extension and encourage/force them to work extensively with Caroline farmers to help the farms become more profitable— possibilities include changing to new crops (industrial hemp,...) and going to value-added products (cheese, yogurt...).
- Town can act as a liaison with Federal agencies (such as Farm Service Agency) and State agencies (such as Soil and Water Conservation Committee) to help make farmers aware of what programs and grants are available and help sort out which programs could help which farms in Caroline.
- Add a section to the town website explaining what an Ag District is and how that differs from an Ag Assessment.
- Town should look into and provide information to farmers on any money available through historical preservation programs or ag programs for maintaining and renovating barns and silos.
- Form a Caroline Agricultural Committee to act on the above proposals.

Land Use

- Look for a grant to support the addition of services (water, sewer) to regions of the town where development is desired. Lack of emergency services is another factor limiting (for better and worse) development.
- Town or someone could find a developer to repossess any long-vacant properties along the Rt. 79 corridor and encourage multi-residence housing there.
- Add information on the town website explaining the Site Plan Review and Subdivision Review processes.