

MINUTES

Members Present: S. Stearns (Chair), C. Keuffner, T. Wollen, E. Hall, D. Dorfer, J. Jeliffe, M. Tindall (alt), N. Rawn (alt)

Members Absent: J. Lovdal, (recently resigned)

Staff Present: J. Kaufman, Senior Planner/Inland Wetlands Agent; J. Woodmansee, Planning Specialist;

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Stearns called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

Nancy Rawn volunteered to be Secretary for this meeting.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

December 3, 2019 minutes- Diane motioned to approve the minutes and Nancy seconded, the minutes passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. INTERPRETATION OF ZONING REGULATIONS: ARTICLE 10, SECTION T, AGRICULTURAL USES

In light of Jillene's presence and the presence of two members of the public, (Mr. Morse and Ms. Peters) for whom this matter was related, new business was conducted first. Jillene introduced the issue of an animal enclosure at 170 Crane Hill Road that had been referred to the Agriculture Committee by the Planning and Zoning Committee. The owner of this property had been issued a violation based on the original interpretation of the enclosure as a "pen". The owners disputed this and called it a "pasture". Pictures of the property and enclosure, and maps of the site were examined and after some discussion, a motion was made by Terry Wollen that "the questionable area is a pen, not a pasture." This was seconded by Ed Hall. Discussion followed. It was generally agreed upon by the committee that an enclosure in which goats are housed permanently, fed, and watered and in which the fencing is not moved for said goats in a regular manner, is a pen. The fact that it is greater than 200 square feet is not relevant in this situation. Public comment by Mr. Morse confirmed that it is not a grassy area and Ed added that this time of year they would have to be fed in such an area, since it lacks potential for grazing. Stacy read definitions of "pen" and "pasture" from UNH Extension that reinforced ideas expressed by Ed.

A vote was taken: The motion passed

In favor: Dorfer, Rawn, Hall, Wollen (Rawn was seated as voting member.) Abstained: Jeliffe, Keuffner

B. 2019-2020 AG LEASE REPORTS

Jennifer asked for confirmation that members of the committee had reviewed the Ag Lease Reports and asked if there were any questions. Chris moved that the Ag Lease Reports were reviewed and Terry seconded. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Taste of Mansfield Update – Jill Martin, UConn Extension

Tabled to February 2020 meeting.

B. March 9, 2020 Farmers Forum

Jennifer confirmed that it will take place at Buchanan Center at the library. The program was discussed and the following was decided on: Introductions, an update on Ag Committee projects (including the farm to table dinner), an update on Taste of Mansfield. A suggested keynote speaker was Bryan O'Hara, as he has a new book out. An alternate or second speaker suggested was Shuresh Gamire. Diane will explore those two possibilities and get back to Jennifer. Finally, farmers would have an opportunity to sign up as providers for the Farm to Table Dinner.

C. Marketing and Outreach

- **Farm to Table Dinner:** Diane reported that she spoke with Leslie McDonough, of Mansfield Library and that the lawn at the library could be used for this purpose, even on a Sunday. Bathrooms and kitchen area could be used. She reported that tent rental would be @\$700. (20ft x 40 ft) and would hold tables for 60 people. Sarah Cook Curtis, owner of Not Only Juice, was interested in catering. Tentative date of July 25th was proposed. It was agreed that draft budget was needed. Sub committee was chosen to meet with Sarah and Leslie. (Nancy and Diane) and will meet before Feb. Ag Comm Meeting. Jenn suggested that Taste of Mansfield could promote it.
- **Radio Appearance** Stacey reported that Ken Rawn (of local CSA) will appear on Wayne Norman show on Feb 19th to talk about the CSA concept, CSA day and local food. It was suggested a second farmer join Ken; Diane, Susan Mitchell, or Jiff Martin.
- **CSA Article in Mansfield Connections:** Stacey reported that this publication would not write such an article due to its policy of not promoting businesses.

D. Membership

Melissa Tindal and Nancy Rawn were approved as alternates, Diane Dorfer was made a full member due to resignation of Jude Lovdal. Jenn confirmed that there is one alternate seat open and that this news should be spread.

REPORTS

A. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

None

B. STAFF REPORT

Jennifer reported that the following events are happening:

- Community Dinner at the Middle school, January 29th
- A Friends and Farmers event for local CSAs at the library in coordination with morning storytelling on Feb. 22nd.
- There will be a Know Your Farmer Fair in Windham on Feb. 29th
- A member event at the Community Center about CSAs and local food presented by Jiff Martin. 4/29 from 6:30-8 pm MCC Community Room
- A member event at the Community Center by Raluca on Pollinator Plants-4/23 from 7-8:30 in the MCC Community Room

All of these events will be on the Taste of Mansfield Website.

Stacey moved to adjourn at 9:04. Chris seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy Rawn
Acting Secretary