

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
DRAFT Minutes of January 5, 2010 meeting
Mansfield Community Center
Arts and Crafts Room

1. Chairman Al Cyr, called the meeting to order at 7:35.
2. PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Bill Palmer, Kathleen Paterson, Ed Wazer, Vicky Wetherell, Jennifer Kaufman (staff).
3. Minutes of the November 4, 2009, meeting were approved.

Old Business

4. Agriculture Zoning Regulations

Jennifer has sent the current regulations to Joan Nichols (Ct. Farm Bureau) for review. The committee asked Jennifer to send their proposed regs to Joan, also. We also requested 1) that Joan attend the committee's March meeting to discuss her suggestions and 2) she send us a copy of her comments beforehand for our information. Charlie has reviewed Guilford's zoning regulations, which included statements of the *intent* of each regulation. The committee will discuss these regs at their March meeting.

The committee is considering making further revisions after the March meeting, than asking for review by others. Examples: Joyce Meader (Extension) and a land-use lawyer familiar with agriculture issues. A forum to solicit public input was also suggested as part of preparing these revisions before forwarding them to PZC for review.

New Business

5. Election of Chair and Secretary

Al was elected chair; Vicky was elected secretary.

6. New Members

Jennifer has contacted a local farmer about membership and also FFA about a student representative.

7. Agriculture Committee Charge

The committee reviewed its duties as stated in the Town Clerk's records. This charge was established when the committee was established in the 1990's, and the committee will consider updates at the February meeting.

8. Meeting Dates

The committee considered alternative date and place to meet, and Jennifer will research.

9. Town Leases

Al asked that the committee review the current leases on town-owned farmland. This was scheduled for the February meeting.

10. AGvocate program

Jennifer informed us that the AGvocate program received more funding, and four towns will be added to the program. The committee agreed to update the Town's application and recommend that it be resubmitted. The application will be available in March.

11. Presentation to the Town Council

The committee reviewed a general open space presentation being proposed by the Open Space Presentation Committee. Some changes were suggested for this presentation. The committee also discussed the need for a separate presentation by the Agriculture Committee about issues beyond the general presentation, including a proposed update of the committee's charge and an AGvocate application. Discussion of the Agriculture Committee presentation will continue at the February meeting.

12. Meeting adjourned at 9:30.