

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
DRAFT Minutes of February 2, 2010 meeting amended 3-3-10
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Al Cyr, called the meeting to order at 7:35.

PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Bill Palmer, Kathleen Paterson, Carol Stearns, Ed Wazer, Vicky Wetherell, Jennifer Kaufman (staff). Also attending: Wes Bell, Chris Dittrich, John Dittrich, Meredith Poehlitz.

2. Minutes of the January 5, 2010, meeting were approved.

New Business

3. New members

Welcome and introductions to Wes, Chris, John and Meredith who are considering becoming members of the committees.

4. Agriculture Committee Charge

The committee reviewed Al's draft of an updated committee charge, which has not been changed since the committee was formed in 1995. Suggestions for revisions to this draft will be included in a second draft for review at a future meeting. The committee's recommendations for an updated charge will be forwarded to the Town Council for approval.

5. Mansfield Country brochure

The committee discussed the annual mailing to the agriculture community about the 2010 edition of Mansfield Country. The letter would also offer an opportunity to sign up for email notices about workshops, grants, etc. relevant to agriculture.

6. AGvocate program

Jennifer advised the committee that applications for Mansfield to join the AGvocate program will be available next week, and the deadline is April 1. The committee will discuss this application at their March 2 meeting.

7. Presentation to the Town Council

Vicky informed the committee that a general open space presentation will be on March 8. Each committee, including the Agriculture Committee, will make a brief

comment about their participation in the open space preservation process. The Agriculture Committee will also make a separate presentation at a later date.

Old Business

8. Agriculture Zoning Regulations

Joan Nichols (Ct. Farm Bureau) has offered to meet with the committee and others in Mansfield about proposed regulations. Jennifer advised the committee that Joan is currently working with East Windsor, and Joyce Meader (Extension) is developing some farm animal standards. The committee decided to invite Joan to a meeting after these projects are completed, so they can provide guidance to Mansfield.

9. March Agenda

The committee will review the revised charge, agricultural leases, the Town Council presentation and the AGvocate application at the March meeting.

10. Meeting adjourned at 9:15.