

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
Minutes of April 5, 2011 meeting
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, Ed Wazer, Vicky Wetherell, Meredith Poehlitz, Wes Bell, Jennifer Kaufman (staff), guests Jonathan Janeway and Charlotte Ross.

2. Minutes of the March 1, 2011, meeting were approved.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Anthony Kotula proposed acquiring 0.15 acres of Town land adjacent to his property. He would expand his agricultural activities onto the 0.15 parcel. Kathy Kotula also commented on his proposal.

Old Business

3. *Agriculture Producers Survey* Before the May meeting, committee members will contact farmers who have not returned the survey forms and complete the forms on the phone with the farmers. At the May meeting, the committee will review a summary of the results and plan for next steps.

4. *Agricultural Zoning Regulations* The PZC Regulatory Review Subcommittee is preparing a final draft. The Agriculture Committee will request that they review the draft before a public hearing date is set.

5. *Farmland Use Agreements* The use-agreement subcommittee reported that they have completed a draft agreement for the 2012 season, but they want to review it in light of new information. They will report to the committee in July. The sub-committee also reported on field visits with current lessees.

New Business

6. *Kotula request* The committee reviewed Mr. Kotula's presentation and materials. After discussion, Ed moved (Al seconded) that the committee recommend to the Town Council that they not approve Mr. Kotula's request to purchase 0.15 acres from the Town. The committee voted unanimously in favor of this motion. The committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Council.

Items for future agendas

Review final draft of ag zoning regulations, farmer survey results (May)

Terms for 2012 use-agreements (July)

Agriculture incentives action plan, publicity, farmland preservation

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.