

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
APPROVED Minutes of June 5, 2012 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, Charlie Galgowski, Vicky Wetherell, Meredith Poehlitz, Kathleen Paterson, Jennifer Kaufman (staff). Also attending: Tom Wells.

2. Minutes of the May 1 meeting were approved.

Old Business

3. *Right to Farm and Tax Incentive Ordinances* – Town Council will take up these ordinances at their June 11 meeting and possibly set a date for a public hearing.

4. *Farmland Preservation Subcommittee Report* - The subcommittee is requesting soil map clarifications from NRCS.

New Business

5. *Request for herbicide application on Commonfields* Tom Wells requested committee recommendations for weed control options on the area between the cemetery and the barn. Questions were raised about potential impacts on an adjacent pond and well. Tom will communicate his plan to Jennifer after conferring with Crop Production Service.

6. *Town Council Communications* The committee discussed items to include in a memo to the Council concerning benefits of Town-owned farmland. Kathleen will make a draft for committee review.

7. *Easements on Town farmlands* The committee discussed next steps concerning potential protective easements on Town-owned agricultural fields. Elisabeth Moore of Ct. Farmland Trust will be asked to attend a fall meeting to inform us about such easements.

8. *New Initiatives* – The committee’s Newsletter has been sent to the agriculture community with information about committee activities and grant opportunities. The Mansfield Grown brochure will be ready later in June.

9. *Executive Session* The committee voted to go into executive session at 9:00, and then voted to come out of this session at 9:05.

10. *July meeting* The committee will not meet on the normal date of July 3. A later date in July will be decided via email.

9. The meeting adjourned at 9:10. The next meeting date is TBD.

