

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
DRAFT Minutes of April 7, 2015 regional meeting  
Meeting with representatives from Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Tolland, Willington and  
Windham

Present: Mansfield Agriculture Committee: Al Cyr (chair), Ed. Hall, Kathleen Paterson, Bryan Kielbania, Vicky Wetherell, Jennifer Kaufman (staff); Windham Agriculture Commission: Mary Conklin, Axel Oschmann, Mike Westerfield; Ashford Agriculture Commission: Art Talmadge, Sheri Simpson; Tolland Agriculture Commission: Linda Palmer; Coventry Agriculture Committee: Darcy Polansky, Melissa Higgins; Chaplin farmers: Nick Hickman, Darcy Rose.

Meeting was called to order at 7:35.

Vicky was appointed acting secretary.

*Updates on Town Agriculture Committee/Commissions* Representatives from each town shared their past and proposed activities.

*Opportunities for Regional Collaboration*

Cosponsor workshops:

For town officials about fiscal aspects of agricultural land and operations

For farmers (possibly with a Ct. Farm Bureau grant) about pollinators, soil health, Farm Service Agency funding and insurance.

It was decided to cosponsor a pollinator workshop this spring. Art will coordinate it.

Other potential ways to collaborate:

Sponsor a regional farmers meeting with food and fun (possibly at Cassidy Hill Winery)

Support actions being advocated by a town's committee/commission

Share ways to achieve goals

Assist Chaplin and Tolland with start-up

Create a database of farmers in all towns for contacts about events

Cosponsor a local foods event at restaurants, farmers markets, farms

Exchange the group's contact information to facilitate collaboration

*Next meeting* It was agreed to meet on a quarterly basis. The next meeting will be on July 7 at the Mansfield Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05.