

**AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**  
**DRAFT Minutes**  
**March 1, 2016**

Members present: Al Cyr, Ed Hall, Vicky Wetherell, Bryan Kielbania, Jason Stearns, Stacey Stearns, and Jennifer Kaufman (staff),

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:35,
2. Jennifer was appointed acting secretary
3. Roll call was conducted
4. Minutes of February 2, 2016 were approved
5. Old Business
  - a. Farmers forum March 9<sup>th</sup> –The agenda for the “Gathering of Mansfield’s Agricultural Community” was discussed. Members were reminded to contact local farmers.
  - b. Economic Development Commission (Thursday, March 24 at 5:30 pm)- Stacey Stearns will give a presentation regarding the state of the dairy industry in CT, Paul Brody will discuss new developments at Mountain Dairy, and the Agriculture Committee will discuss their mission and ways to collaborate.
  - c. Farm-to-Table (Locally Grown Restaurant Event)-The committee would like to make this a joint effort between the EDC and the Ag Committee.
  - d. Update on Tom Wells’ leases-Vivian Felton from NRCS has not gotten back to Tom or the other lessees. Jennifer will follow-up.
  - e. Regional Agriculture Commission next steps-The Committee discussed meeting May with the Regional Group working to co-promote a workshop at Cranberry Hill Farm regarding no-till vegetable production. Jennifer will be in touch with the regional group and will Art Talmadge to coordinate the details.
  - f. Ravine Road update-The Town Council voted to make improvements to the road and allow Karen Green close the gate at certain times to move her livestock. The neighbors and Karen seem be comfortable with this solution. This will be put in the FY16/17 budget that will be voted on at Town Meeting in May.
6. New Business-none
7. Communications
  - a. National CSA Signup Day-Jennifer mentioned that Susan had drafted a flyer about National CSA sign-up day that was posted on the Town’s website, Facebook page and the Manager’s Twitter Feed
  - b. Ag Signage- Jennifer met with the traffic authority. They have a clear understanding of where to put the signs. Public works will add this to their task list.
8. Future Agendas
  - a. Farm to School Initiative-Jiff Martin
  - b. Zoning (TBA)
  - c. Permanently Preserving Town-owned land (TBA)
9. Other
10. Public Comment-none
11. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30