

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Members Present: S. Stearns (Chair), C. Kueffner, T. Wollen, N. Rawn; M. Tindall (alt.)

Members Absent: E. Hall, D. Dorfer,

Staff Present: J. Kaufman, Senior Planner/Inland Wetlands Agent

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Stearns called the meeting to order at 7:05PM

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

MINUTES

Minutes for Special Meeting August 19th reviewed. T. Wollen moved they be accepted, N. Rawn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Farm to Families- J. Kaufman reported that the contract has been received from CT DoAg and a project coordinator will be hired to assist with the project. .

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2021 Meeting Schedule was reviewed. C Kueffner moved to accept it, N. Rawn seconded.

Discussion: Chair Stearns commented that the dates were chosen because those are months when the committee will have reports to review. J. Kaufman commented that other meetings can be called, either special meetings or regular meetings. Appropriate notice will need to be given to Town Clerk for each type of meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. 2021 Workplan

- Discussion was opened up to the committee as to what to include on the 2021 workplan. The following ideas were proposed:
- Review lease reports
- Decide how to allocate \$750. to do AG outreach or education
- Explore how to do more COVID time period outreach
- Work with Taste of Mansfield on “infomercial” for “Friends and Farmers”

- Consider new ways to get info out on local farms and CSAs- create a schedule of postings decide how often and what content)
- Outreach to home growers- links to Master Gardener info
- Support EO Smith AG students by involving them in an AG Fair/provide cash incentives
- T. Wollen volunteered to reach out to EO Smith AG educator
- J. Kaufman suggested utilizing new town Communications personnel – when and if they are available
- Kueffner- Encourage farm tours, and bicycle “Tour de Farms” in the late spring, a way to connect to local farms in a safe, outdoor manner
- N. Rawn volunteered to reach out to local CSA owners (Mansfield and Willington) to see what needs/ideas they have for consumer education/publicity in 2021
- It was agreed that committee members would collect information and communicate it at next meeting.

C. Membership

Two spots remain open for alternates. It was suggested that perhaps an EO Smith instructor or student could be invited to apply.

D. Roadside Curbing

It was determined that roadside curbing was a topic in the past for the AG committee when it concerned the safety and ease with which agricultural vehicles could exit and enter property. It was decided that Cape Cod style curbing made for easier access and should be used alongside roads where it is needed and where there is traditionally agricultural use along such roadways.

New concerns were brought up and the question was asked as to when and how the type of curbing was decided upon by Public Works when the need arises. Discussion followed.

It was decided that more research would be done before the next scheduled meeting and that the AG Committee along with other stakeholders such as bicyclists and homeowners might be able to have some input into the Road Standards, as they are revised in the near future by Public Works.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Kueffner moved to adjourn. T. Wollen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

N. Rawn
Acting Secretary