



# MEETING MINUTES

## AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

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CONFERENCE ROOM B

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:05
2. **Attendance-**Members Present: Diane Dorfer, Ed Hall, Chris Kueffner, Jude Lovdal, Stacey Stearns, Terry Wollen, Jennifer Kaufman (staff)
3. **Minutes-**Jude moved, Diane seconded to approve the December 4, 2018 minutes. Motion passed unanimously with a friendly amendment to change “agricultural” to “agriculture” near end of document. approved
4. **Public Comment**

Chris expressed his concern, as a member of the public, that the Agriculture Committee has not acted on or in any way reviewed or been made aware of proposed additions, changes, or failure to change zoning regulations that might be of interest to the committee. Stacey affirmed that this item would be added to the actual/active agenda of the committee. Further, Jennifer confirmed that she will present (at the Ag Committee’s February meeting) the relevant parts of the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development, the document that is intended to inform subsequent zoning regulations.
5. **Old Business**
  - Taste of Mansfield-Update- Jennifer provided a Taste of Mansfield Update. All dates of events are on the website. AgCom Committee Members were encouraged to attend the 2/14/2019 partner meeting.
  - Sustainable CT-Update-Jennifer shared a summary spreadsheet of actions and discussed various practices, especially 4.3.2. (leasing town agricultural land). Current practices, when documented, would appear to reach the maximum number of points (25) for this area of the Sustainable CT practices.
  - UConn Agriculture Advocacy Club-follow up-Stacey spoke with Katie and invited the group to the February Ag committee meeting. She also invited marketing student intern(s) she is working with and will invite UConn Advocates for Agriculture to community dinner to see the activities first-hand.
  - Mansfield Connections Article-Article submitted with photos. Publication expected in February issue. Jennifer has reached out Derrik Kennedy to confirm that submission does not conflict with Town Committee/Commission Communications policy.
  - Agriculture Lease/License Review-Initial paperwork being received and reviewed by Jennifer. Discussion about how to further aid farmers leasing town land based on

information gained on field-trip. Diane is interested in responding to and acting on needed tree work at Mt. Hope Park to help facilitate more productive agricultural activities. Diane has in mind combining necessary work with an educational session and the benefits of a day-session community workgroup and skill-building workshop. This might ideally happen in coordination with a newly-established sustainability group based at the Mansfield Library. Diane moved and Ed seconded the motion: "The Agriculture committee will encourage the library to hold their chain saw training event at Mt Hope Park provide Bill Varga agrees as the Lessee.

**6. New Business**

- Membership
- Leases-Initial paperwork being received and reviewed by Jennifer. Discussion about how to further aid farmers leasing town land based on information gained on field-trip.

**7. Communications and Reports from Members**

- Current farmer, Susan Mitchell, who is now leasing farm land, is looking for land and buildings to purchase to continue and expand her enterprise.

**8. Future Agendas**

- Zoning Regulations

**9. Adjourn**

- Terry moved to adjourn at 7:35. Ed seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Kueffner