

AGENDA
Agriculture Committee
Meeting

6:00 PM - Tuesday, November 5, 2019
Town Hall-4 South Eagleville Road-
Conference Room B

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1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL	
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
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3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT	
4. OLD BUSINESS	
a. 2020 Meeting Dates 2020 Meeting Schedule	4
b. Membership	
5. NEW BUSINESS	
a. DRAFT Pollinator Resolution Pollinator Resolution - draft 10-30-19	5 - 8
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b. Staff Updates	
8. FUTURE MEETINGS	
9. ADJOURNMENT	

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
DRAFT Minutes
October 1, 2019

Members Present: Jeremy Jelliffe, Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Jude Lovdal, Stacey Stearns, Terry Wollen

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm

Review of Minutes

- a. August 13, 2019 - Jude motioned to approve the minutes and Terry seconded, the minutes passed unanimously.

Old Business

- a. Taste of Mansfield collaborative – Alexis is going to take over for Kathleen Paterson as a program intern to take over project work directed by Jiff and Jenn. She will be doing a packet for partners covering different events. New “nutria-cation” project is going to incorporate local food and ToM. Stephanie Richard is going to incorporate local farm products into the menu. There will be another school dinner on Wed 10/23 @ 6pm Mansfield MS.

New Business

- a. Election of Officers – Terry nominated Stacy to continue as chair for another year and Jude for secretary. The nominees were accepted by acclamation.
- b. Article for the Mansfield Connections – Stacey has been talking with the folks at the magazine and they are interested in doing an article on agriculture in Mansfield. Stacey had contacted Nancy directly and also spoken with Bill at the magazine. A local farm family could be featured on the cover of the magazine. Jenn suggested we ask if the magazine would include a ToM section with the logo in the article. The magazine features a recipe in each of the issues and may be able to coordinate it with the agriculture feature. The group also discussed media outlets in general for raising awareness of agriculture in Mansfield and associated projects (e.g., ToM). Complaints about farm animals have been an issue in the past and a feature could discuss winter care of farm animals. A student at UConn may be interesting in working on these articles as part of an independent study with Stacey.
- c. Proposed meeting times for next year – Jude motioned to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm effective January 1, 2020. Jeremy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Communications/Reports from Members

- a. CT Economic Resource Center (CERC) – Focus Group
 - Monday September 30th at 7pm at the Coventry Senior Center/Patriot's Park Lodge (172 Lake St. Coventry, CT).
 - This group met on Monday, Jenn attended and suggested Stacey reach out to CERC as committee chair because they would like to discuss ag. as part of the economic development work they are conducting.
- b. There was a complaint about a goat operation at 577 Warrenville Rd. Jenn forwarded the information to the state health dept. and veterinarian. The complaint states that the goats are entering and damaging adjacent property and their manure is running into a pond that borders both properties.

Future Meetings

- a. Zoning
- b. Leases
- c. Outreach and Education – committee needs to make date for farmers forum, March 10th is the tentative meeting date. Theme needs to be selected – proposed topic is what ToM can do for Mansfield farmers.

Public Comment: There is no public comment to report.

Jude moved to adjourn at 6:59 pm, Terry seconded.

2020 Regular Meeting Schedule Agriculture Committee

Adopted by the Agriculture Committee on _____

The Agriculture Committee generally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room B unless otherwise noted. The following are specific meeting dates for 2019. Agendas will be posted 24 hours before the meeting. This schedule is subject to change.

January	14
February	11
March	10
April	14
May	12
June	9
July	14
August	11
September	15
October	13
November	10
December	8

**Resolution
Declaring the Town of Mansfield a Pollinator Friendly community**

WHEREAS, the loss of pollinators is alarmingly high, with honey bee colonies experiencing significant annual losses, and with populations of native bees and other pollinators also in decline; and

WHEREAS, threats to pollinators concern the entire food system, where pollination services provided by honey bees and other essential pollinators account for one in every three bites of food and are valued at \$18 to \$27 billion in agricultural production annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, these declines are driven by a number of factors including habitat loss, pesticide exposure, lack of forage, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of healthy, biodiverse ecosystems depends upon the significant environmental services provided by pollinator species; and

WHEREAS, populations of pollinators can be supported and enhanced by increasing native habitat that is protected from pesticide contamination; and

WHEREAS, the use of neonicotinoids, the most widely used class of insecticides, is associated with lethal and sub-lethal effects on bees such as impaired foraging patterns, altered reproductive cycles, and impaired immune systems leading to increased susceptibility to pathogens and reduced colony survival; and

WHEREAS, a large and growing body of independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrate that existing neonicotinoid contamination in the environment can also adversely impact birds, aquatic organisms and the ecosystems they support; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that many pesticides, including fungicides and herbicides, can pose risks to already-compromised bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, use of pesticides is often cosmetic and is not necessary to create and maintain landscapes, gardens or open spaces, given the availability of viable alternative practices and products; and

WHEREAS, integrated pest management - designed to manage pests by addressing the underlying sources of the pest problems and prioritizing techniques that are least toxic to humans and the environment - strengthens efforts to protect pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield can demonstrate its support for pollinators by maintaining pollinator habitat on land managed by the Town and by encouraging residents to plant pollinator-friendly native plants, and to abstain from pesticide use.

NOW, THEREFORE:

The Town of Mansfield will create, restore, and enhance safe and healthy pollinator habitat that provides forage and nesting resources, and that is protected from harmful pesticide contamination. The Town of Mansfield will identify appropriate locations for creating and managing habitat, potentially including parks, open spaces, roadsides, and around facilities. Where possible, The Town of Mansfield will seek habitat locations that facilitate habitat connectivity.

Habitat plantings by The Town of Mansfield will include a diversity of native plant species: flowering trees, shrubs, or forbs known to provide pollen and/or nectar to pollinators, with preference for ecologically appropriate native perennial species in newly planted or restored areas. Plantings should be designed to ensure that flowers are available throughout the growing season. Habitat should also include pollinator nesting sites such as undisturbed soil, undisturbed foliage, and pithy-stemmed plants.

To the extent possible, The Town of Mansfield will reduce mowing frequency, and revise land management and mowing policies to allow wildflowers and other appropriate flowering forage species to bloom and flourish (see best practices provided by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qLQR48hu-HALkYeQ2928XMAuHlndMnWC/view>)

The use of any synthetic insecticide in group 4 of the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee's classification that are highly toxic to bees are hereby prohibited on all property owned or operated by Mansfield. Mansfield shall not purchase or use landscaping materials, including plants and seeds that have been treated with these chemicals.

The Town of Mansfield shall deliberately avoid purchasing or using landscaping materials, including plants and seeds that have been treated with neonicotinoids.

The Town of Mansfield shall avoid the use of all insecticides, and pest management on land owned or operated by The Town of Mansfield will follow integrated pest management (IPM) techniques. Pesticides will only be used on land owned or operated by The Town of Mansfield when there is a justifiable need for the pesticide to be applied. A justified use is supported by evidence of a public health risk or that a pest or disease outbreak exists or has strong potential to exist, and will cause significant harm.

There will be no pesticides applied on land owned or operated by The Town of Mansfield for cosmetic reasons.

The Town of Mansfield recognizes the importance of pollinators and their services, and will support and actively engage in efforts to educate the broader community about the actions it is taking.

The Town of Mansfield will encourage government entities, businesses, homeowners and homeowner associations operating within The Town of Mansfield to participate by creating and maintaining native pollinator habitat.

The Town urges all residents, neighborhoods, property owners, businesses, and institutions, to reconsider, reduce, or eliminate the use of neonicotinoids and other hazardous insecticides and to seek alternative means whenever possible of controlling harmful insects without harming beneficial pollinators.

The Town shall endeavor to sponsor or encourage educational programs, lectures, and demonstration projects, such as pollinator gardens, to assist residents and businesses in making Mansfield a Pollinator Friendly Community.

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Highly-toxic* neonicotinoids and other neonic-like synthetic chemicals (see IRAC 4)	
Pesticide Active Ingredient	Example product names These are general product names. Multiple products can use the same general name. Always confirm a product's active ingredient using the product label and EPA Reg. No.
Clothianidin	Aloft, Arena, Halifax, Pancho, Prosper
Dinotefuran	Alpine, Safari
Flupyradifurone	Silvanto
Imidacloprid	Admire, Brigadier, Criterion, Dominion, Grubex, Mallice, Mallet
Sulfoxaflor	Closer, Transform
Thiamethoxam	Actara, Equity, Flagship, Meridian

* Oral toxicity

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