



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
ORDINANCE DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE
Thursday, May 3, 2012
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
Conference Room B
6:00 p.m.
Minutes

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call Chair Carl Schaefer called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.
Present- Lindsey, Schaefer, Moran
Also Present: Dennis O'Brien (Town Attorney), Charlie Galgowski, Agriculture Committee: Staff: Jennifer Kaufman
 - II. Approval of April 5, 2012 minutes-*Moran moved to approve the minutes of April 5, 2012, Lindsey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*
 - III. Old Business
 - a. Right to Farm Ordinance and Municipal Tax Incentives for Farms
 - **Right to Farm (RTF) Ordinance**- Attorney O'Brien circulated the revised ordinance, per the comments of the 4/5/2012 meeting. *Moran moved to send the Right-to-Farm ordinance to the Town Council for consideration. Lindsey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*
 - **Farm Property Tax Abatement** – O'Brien made changes to the ordinance per the committee's comments at the 4/5/2012 meeting. The revised draft was circulated and O'Brien walked the committee through the revised ordinance. (O'Brien left the meeting at 6:45 pm). Members of the committee suggested that sections 4 and 5 be reversed to make the ordinance clearer. Members felt that there needed to be a clear definition of which farms would be eligible so that the abatement would not be taken advantage of. Members made it clear that the intention of the ordinance should be to incentivize farm businesses. Jennifer agreed to solicit input from the Mansfield Assessor who would be administering the applications from farmers. In so far as possible, objective criteria should be developed and clearly stated in the abatement application. In addition, Kaufman agreed to seek guidance from Woodstock's assessor on how this town administers the abatement. Woodstock has had this abatement in place for several years now.
 - b. Next Meeting Date: The committee will meet on Thursday, May 24 to review the changes to the Farm Property Tax Abatement.
 - IV. Public Comment-None
 - V. Adjourn-Lindsey motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:38. Moran seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Adjournment

