

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
Conference Room B
Mansfield Town Offices
7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

March 2, 2010

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Welcome visitors**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
5. **New Business**
 - **Ag Leases**
 - **AGvocate Program Application**
6. **Old Business**
 - **Agriculture Commission Charge Approval**
 - **Presentation to the Town Council**
7. **Other**
 - **Ag Brochure 2010-Mailing Sent**
 - **Ag Zoning Regulations Update**
8. **Items for future agendas**
9. **Adjournment**

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
DRAFT Minutes of February 2, 2010 meeting
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Al Cyr, called the meeting to order at 7:35.

PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Bill Palmer, Kathleen Paterson, Carol Stearns, Ed Wazer, Vicky Wetherell, Jennifer Kaufman (staff). Also attending: Wes Bell, Chris Dittrich, John Dittrich, Meredith Poehlitz.

2. Minutes of the January 5, 2010, meeting were approved.

New Business

3. New members

Welcome and introductions to Wes, Chris, John and Meredith who are considering becoming members of the committees.

4. Agriculture Committee Charge

The committee reviewed Al's draft of an updated committee charge, which has not been changed since the committee was formed in 1995. Suggestions for revisions to this draft will be included in a second draft for review at a future meeting. The committee's recommendations for an updated charge will be forwarded to the Town Council for approval.

5. Mansfield Country brochure

The committee discussed the annual mailing to the agriculture community about the 2010 edition of Mansfield Country. The letter would also offer an opportunity to sign up for email notices about workshops, grants, etc. relevant to agriculture.

6. AGvocate program

Jennifer advised the committee that applications for Mansfield to join the AGvocate program will be available next week, and the deadline is April 1. The committees will discuss this application at their March 2 meeting.

7. Presentation to the Town Council

Vicky informed the committee that a general open space presentation will be on March 8. Each committee, including the Agriculture Committee, will make a brief comment about their participation in the open space preservation process. The Agriculture Committee will also make a separate presentation at a later date.

Old Business

8. Agriculture Zoning Regulations

Joan Nichols (Ct. Farm Bureau) has offered to meet with the committee and others in Mansfield about proposed regulations. Jennifer advised the committee that Joan is currently working with East Windsor, and Joyce Meader (Extension) is developing some farm animal standards. The committee decided to invite Joan to a meeting after these projects are completed, so they can provide guidance to the Mansfield.

9. March Agenda

The committee will review the revised charge, agricultural leases, the Town Council presentation and the AGvocate application at the March meeting.

10. Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Properties with Agricultural Leases Land Management Committee Updated as of 2/23/2010			
Property	Details	Lessee	Site Visit Date
Comments			
Baxter Farm	THE LESSEE will maintain the fields in good agricultural condition and will mow the field at least once a year.	Charlie Galgowski 117 Baxter Rd Storrs, CT 06268	
Common Fields	THE LESSEE will maintain the fields in good agricultural condition and will mow fields at least once a year.	Thomas Wells 513 Wormwood Hill Rd. Mansfield Center, CT 06250 429-2874	
Eagleville Preserve	THE LESSEE will maintain the fields in good agricultural condition, and a winter cover crop will be planted following any growing season in which corn is planted.	Arthur Stearns 50 Stearns Rd. Mansfield-Storrs, CT 06268 423- 9289	
Mt. Hope	THE LESSEE will maintain the fields in good agricultural condition and will mow the field at least once a year.	Bill Varga 20 River Rd Mansfield Ctr, CT 06268--423-0268	
Torrey Property	THE LESSEE will maintain the fields in good agricultural condition and will mow the field at least once a year.	Tom Wells	
Crane Hill Field	THE LESSEE will maintain the fields in good agricultural condition, and a winter cover crop will be planted following any growing season in which corn is planted.	Arthur Stearns 50 Stearns Rd. Mansfield-Storrs, CT 06268	
Bone Mill Rd Property	THE LESSEE will maintain the fields in good agricultural condition, and a winter cover crop will be planted following any growing season in which corn is planted.	Arthur Stearns 50 Stearns Rd. Mansfield-Storrs, CT 06268	

Attachment B

Report form for agricultural leases on Town land

2008 - 2009 ~~2008~~

RETURN BY February 4, 2010

To

Jennifer Kaufman
Parks Coordinator
10 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268
860-429-3015x204
860-429-9773

Email: Kaufmanjs@MansfieldCT.org

Still need Torrey
property from Tom Wells

Name of Town property

BASSETTS BRIDGE

Person submitting this report

TOM WELLS

Past growing season's report: (2009)

1. CROP Hay Silage corn Other (Explain)
2. Did you apply manure? Yes No
3. Did you apply fertilizer? Yes No

If yes, list which fertilizers

4. Did you apply lime? Yes No

If yes, indicate amount per acre

5. Did you apply pesticides? Yes No

If yes, list herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and what problem they were used for

6. Did you plant a winter cover crop? Yes No

If no, why not?

HAY

Attachment B

**Report form for agricultural leases on Town land
2009-2010**

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To

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860-429-3015x204
860-429-9773

Email: Kaufmanjs@MansfieldCT.org

Name of Town property

BASSETTS BRIDGE RD

Person submitting this report

TOM WEUS

Past growing season's report: (2009)

1. CROP

Hay

Silage corn

Other (Explain)

2. Did you apply manure?

~~Yes~~

No

3. Did you apply fertilizer?

Yes

No

If yes, list which fertilizers _____

4. Did you apply lime?

Yes

No

If yes, indicate amount per acre _____

5. Did you apply pesticides?

Yes

No

If yes, list herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and what problem they were used for _____

6. Did you plant a winter cover crop?

Yes

No

If no, why not? _____

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2009-2010

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Name of Town property

Mount Hope Park

Person submitting this report

William Varga

Past growing season's report: (2009)

1. CROP Hay Silage corn Other (Explain)
2. Did you apply manure? Yes No
3. Did you apply fertilizer? Yes No

If yes, list which fertilizers 25-0-25

4. Did you apply lime? Yes No

If yes, indicate amount per acre _____

5. Did you apply pesticides? Yes No

If yes, list herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and what problem they were used for _____

6. Did you plant a winter cover crop? Yes No

If no, why not? established grass land

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Report form for agricultural leases on Town land
2009-2010

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Name of Town property

BAXTER PROPERTY

Person submitting this report

CHARLES GALGOWSKI

Past growing season's report: (2009)

1. CROP Hay Silage corn Other (Explain) VEGETABLES
2. Did you apply manure? Yes No
3. Did you apply fertilizer? Yes No

If yes, list which fertilizers 200 LB 10-20-20 / ACRE ON NORTH FIELD

4. Did you apply lime? Yes No

If yes, indicate amount per acre 2 TONS / ACRE ON BOTH FIELDS
5 ACRES TOTAL

5. Did you apply pesticides? Yes No

If yes, list herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and what problem they were used for FUNGICIDES - BRANO ON NORTH 2-ACRES FOR BLIGHT. 3 PTS/AC 3 APPLIC.

INSECTICIDES - THIODAN 1PT/AC TARDISHED PLANT BUG. HERBICIDES 1/2 OZ SANBIA 100 COMMAND BETWEEN ROWS OF PLASTIC, BROADCAST ON SNAP PEANS FOR BROADLEAF WEEDS + ANNUAL GRASSES.

6. Did you plant a winter cover crop? Yes No

If no, why not? WOULD WINTER RYE / ACRE

Next growing season's plan (2010)

1 CROP Hay Silage corn Other (Explain) *SOME VEGETABLES*

SUMMER SOIL BUILDING COVER CROPS

2 Did you do a soil test this fall? Yes No

TYPICALLY DO IN THE SPRING
If yes, please attach a copy of the soil test results.

3. Do you plan to apply manure? Yes No

4. Do you plan to apply fertilizer? Yes No

If yes, list which fertilizers you plan to apply? _____

5. Do you plan to apply lime? Yes No

If yes, indicate amount per acre _____

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**Report form for agricultural leases on Town land
2009-2010**

RETURN BY February 4, 2010

To

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10 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268
860-429-3015x204
860-429-9773

Email: Kaufmanjs@MansfieldCT.org

Name of Town property

Crane Hill rd

Person submitting this report

Leslie H Stearns

Past growing season's report: (2009)

1. CROP Hay Silage corn Other (Explain)

2. Did you apply manure? Yes No

3. Did you apply fertilizer? Yes No

If yes, list which fertilizers NONE

4. Did you apply lime? Yes No

If yes, indicate amount per acre _____

5. Did you apply pesticides? Yes No

If yes, list herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and what problem they were used for

Roundup
Grass - weeds

6. Did you plant a winter cover crop? Yes No

If no, why not? _____

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860-429-9773
Email: Kaufmanjs@MansfieldCT.org

Name of Town property

Eagleville

Person submitting this report

Leslie H Stearns

Past growing season's report: (2009)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-------------|------------------------|
| 1. CROP | Hay | Silage corn | <u>Other (Explain)</u> |
| 2. Did you apply manure? | Yes | No | Rye Seed |
| 3. Did you apply fertilizer? | Yes | No | Rye Straw |
- If yes, list which fertilizers _____

4. Did you apply lime? Yes No
- If yes, indicate amount per acre _____

5. Did you apply pesticides? Yes No
- If yes, list herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and what problem they were used for _____

6. Did you plant a winter cover crop? Yes No
- If no, why not? Rye seed was there of 2009 crop

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860-429-9773

Email: Kaufmanjs@MansfieldCT.org

Name of Town property

Bone mill

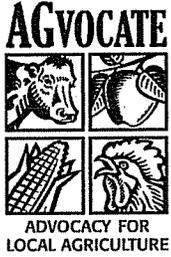
Person submitting this report

Leslie H Stearns

Past growing season's report: (2009)

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|------------------------|
| 1. CROP | Hay | Silage corn | <u>Other</u> (Explain) |
| 2. Did you apply manure? | Yes | No | Rye Seed |
| 3. Did you apply fertilizer? | Yes | <u>No</u> | too wet |
| If yes, list which fertilizers _____ | | | |
| 4. Did you apply lime? | Yes | <u>No</u> | |
| If yes, indicate amount per acre _____ | | | |
| 5. Did you apply pesticides? | Yes | <u>No</u> | |
| If yes, list herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and what problem they were used for _____ | | | |
| 6. Did you plant a winter cover crop? | Yes | <u>No</u> | |
| If no, why not? <u>Rye Seed was there of 2007 crop</u> | | | |

For immediate release



Contact:
Jennifer Kaufman
AGvocate
Eastern CT RC&D
139 Wolf Den Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234
AGvocate@yahoo.com
860-450-6007

February 5, 2010

AGvocate Program Seeking Communities

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has announced that it will fund a second year of the regional AGvocate program. Four additional municipalities will be selected to receive technical assistance from a circuit rider "AGvocate," Jennifer Kaufman, to strengthen the farm-friendliness of community regulations and improve the viability of agricultural businesses within the community over the long term.

Municipalities that wish to apply should have prime agricultural soils and an active farm community. Both municipal officials and agricultural producers must be committed to creating tools to improve the understanding of agricultural issues and communication between local agricultural producers and other members of the community over the long-term.

Technical assistance may include, but is not limited to: initiating or improving the effectiveness of an existing Agricultural Commission; reviewing tax reduction options; planning for farmland protection; encouraging buy local opportunities; exploring methods to promote local farms; including agriculture in town plans; and right-to-farm ordinances.

The AGvocate program began in early 2009 when the CT Department of Agriculture awarded the first Farm Viability Grant to establish an AGvocate Pilot Program. Six towns, Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Franklin, Sterling, and Thompson, have been working with the AGvocate to implement tools and create action plans to help promote farm viability.

Municipalities interested in participating in the AGvocate program should contact Jennifer Kaufman at AGvocate@yahoo.com or 860-450-6007, for more information and for an application form. All applications must be received no later than Thursday, April 1, 2010.

Many thanks to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture for their support of this program.

AGvocate Steering Committee: Ben Bowell, New England Field Rep, American Farmland Trust • Lois Bruinooge, Deputy Executive Director, The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) • David Fuss, Town of Brooklyn Planning and Zoning Commission • John Guskowski, President, Eastern CT RC&D • Rick Hermonot, Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm, & Farm and Business Consultant, First Pioneer Credit • Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate (Staff) • Kevin Kennedy, Director of Planning, Town of Thompson • Joyce Meader, Dairy /Livestock Educator, UConn Cooperative Extension • Dawn Pindell, Executive Director, Windham County Farm Service Agency • Norma O'Leary, Chair, TLGV Natural Resources & Agriculture Committee • Elizabeth Rogers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

AGVOCATE



ADVOCACY FOR
LOCAL AGRICULTURE

For consideration, applications must be received no later than Thursday, April 1, 2010. Submit applications via email to AGvocate@yahoo.com (electronic submittals preferred), fax to 860-779-0148, or mail to AGvocate, Eastern CT RC&D, 139 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234. For questions or more information, please contact Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate at AGvocate@yahoo.com or 860-450-6007.

Should you require additional space for your answers, please use the back of this form.

MUNICIPALITY: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

POSITION/ROLE IN COMMUNITY (I.E. TOWN STAFF, MEMBER OF BOARD OR COMMISSION, FARMER, ETC):

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

PLEASE DESCRIBE AGRICULTURE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE NEED FOR THIS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate
Eastern CT RC&D, 139 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234
AGvocate@yahoo.com
860-450-6007
860-779-0148 (Fax)

DESCRIBE ANY STEPS ALREADY TAKEN IN YOUR MUNICIPALITY TO "PLAN FOR AGRICULTURE" OR PROMOTE THE VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES.

DESCRIBE AREAS WHERE YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSISTANCE IN STRENGTHENING THE "FARM FRIENDLINESS" OF YOUR COMMUNITY REGULATIONS AND IMPROVE THE VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHY:

HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED LOCAL OFFICIALS AND/OR MEMBERS OF TOWN COMMITTEES OR BOARDS WILLING TO SERVE ON SUCH A LONGTERM COMMISSION? IF SO, PLEASE LIST NAMES AND ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY?

Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate
Eastern CT RC&D, 139 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234
AGvocate@yahoo.com
860-450-6007
860-779-0148 (Fax)

IF ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM, HOW WILL YOU SUSTAIN FARM FRIENDLY POLICIES OVER THE LONG-TERM?

IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT AND ENGAGE IN THIS PROCESS, PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING SIGN THIS APPLICATION:

WE DO HEREBY ENDORSE AND SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION AND WILL COMMIT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITHIN AVAILABLE RESOURCES IN ORDER TO ACCOPLISH THE INTEDDED GOALS OF THIS APPLICATION WITH THE HELP OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE AGvocate.

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL/EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MUNICIPAL STAFF MEMBER (I.E. PLANNER)

CHAIR OF KEY COMMISSION (I.E. PLANNING AND ZONING)

Jennifer Kaufman, AGvocate
Eastern CT RC&D, 139 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn, CT 06234
AGvocate@yahoo.com
860-450-6007
860-779-0148 (Fax)

Rev. 2/23/2010
Per 2/2/2010
Meeting

Mansfield Agriculture Committee Charge

CHARGE/DUTIES: The Agriculture Committee shall be an advisory board to the Town Council and other Town Officials with the following charges and duties:

General

- a. To foster agricultural viability and preservation of agricultural land in Mansfield.
- b. To serve as a conduit between local farmers and non-profit agencies, civic organizations, municipal boards and commissions, elected officials, and non-farm residents.
- c. To advocate for agriculture before land use and other commissions.
- d. To act a resource for agricultural information.
- e. To chart land use in Mansfield to support a balance between agriculture, preservation, and other land uses.

Education and Outreach

- a. To increase awareness of agricultural enterprises in the community.
- b. To promote the value of viable agriculture to the Town in the areas of employment, property taxes, environment and farmland preservation.
- c. To provide information and guidance on agriculture-related issues-such as zoning, inland wetland, public works and others - to town departments and other boards and commissions and residents as necessary.
- d. To support young farmers by supporting local, regional, and state vocational agricultural education, and 4-H programs.
- e. To support local regional and state vocational agriculture education programs.
- f. To recognize and support new farming operations.
- g. To act as a sounding board and provide review to town departments, boards and commissions concerning the impact of proposed town policies on agricultural activities.

Economic Opportunities

- a. To identify opportunities to preserve and expand agriculture in Mansfield.
- b. To promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to support agriculture.
- c. To provide information regarding available financial support related to agricultural viability.

MEMBERSHIP: The Agriculture Committee will consist of 8 voting members appointed by the Town Council in accordance with A§192 of the Mansfield Code. Insofar as practical, members appointed shall be representative of all groups interested in the management, protection and regulation of agriculture as defined by Connecticut General Statutes 1-1q, particularly those directly involved in agriculture. A chairman, vice chairman and a secretary will be elected and will serve for a term of one year.

LENGTH OF TERM: The appointments will be for two year terms.