

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

AGENDA

July 6, 2010

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Welcome visitors**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
5. **Old Business**
 - **Presentation to the Town Council-update**
 - **Tax Abatement Update**
 - **Zoning Update**
 - **Revision of Charge Update**
6. **New Business**
7. **Other**
8. **Items for future agendas**
 - **TLGV Foodshed Plan (November)**
 - **Joint meeting with the Sustainability Committee**
9. **Adjournment**

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
DRAFT Minutes of June 1, 2010 meeting
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Charlie Galgowski (acting chair) called the meeting to order at 7:35.

PRESENT: Charlie Galgowski, Kathleen Paterson, Bill Palmer, Ed Wazer, Raluca Molcanu, Vicky Wetherell, Larry Lombard, Jennifer Kaufman (staff). Also attending: Meredith Poehlitz.

2. Minutes of the May 4, 2010, meeting were approved.

Old Business

3. Pleasant Valley draft zoning map and regulation revisions

The committee reviewed a draft of their statement, and a representative will read it at the PZC hearing on June 7.

4. Presentation to the Town Council

The committee reviewed a draft and will finalize at their July 7 meeting for a July presentation.

New Business

6. Report from the Tax Abatement Subcommittee

Tax relief mandated by the state and options for town tax relief were reviewed. The Town Council would have to act before October 1 to have an effect for July, 2011, tax bills. The committee will finalize a recommendation at their July meeting. Presentation of tax options to the Council will be after the committee's July presentation.

7. Sustainability Committee meeting

The committee requested that this meeting be postponed until the fall.

8. USDA proposed animal vaccine lab

Charlie reported on the USDA/UConn proposal for this lab at the Depot Campus.

9. Meeting with Committee on Committees

A meeting about updating committee charge has been rescheduled for June 23 at 7 p.m.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:15.

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 foster a healthy environment.
- c. To serve as a conduit between local farmers and non-profit agencies, civic organizations, municipal boards and commissions, elected officials, and non-farm residents.
- d. To advocate for agriculture before land use and other commissions.
- e. To act as a resource for agricultural information.
- f. To chart land use in Mansfield to support a balance between agriculture, preservation, and other land uses.
- g. **To promote keeping Town-owned farmland in agricultural production. In addition, to ensure the responsible use of Town-owned farmland by monitoring use agreements between the Town and local farmers.**

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 recognize and support new farming operations.
- f. 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 6 regular voting members and 4 alternates 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.