

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
Minutes of January 3, 2012 meeting  
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Acting Chairman Charlie Galgowski called the meeting to order at 7:35.

PRESENT: Charlie Galgowski, Wes Bell, Vicky Wetherell, Meredith Poehlitz, Kathleen Paterson, Ed Wazer, Jennifer Kaufman (staff)

2. Minutes of the December 6 meeting were approved.

**Old Business**

3. *Farmland Leasing* - Jennifer shared review comments on the committee's draft from an attorney for the Farmland ConneCTions Service (project of the UConn Extension's Sustainable Food Systems program). The committee appreciates the suggestions and supports the suggested changes. Jennifer will refer the attorney's comments to the Town attorney for review before submitting it to the Town Council.

The committee voted to support stewardship of Town-owned fields as rent for their use, and also voted to support offering the revised lease to the present lessees. The committee also discussed the pros and cons of a rolling lease feature. Jennifer will refer this to the Town's attorney. This memo will be presented to the Town Council for their January 9 meeting if all issues have been resolved.

4. *Recommendations for Right-to-Farm and Tax Incentives Ordinances* – The committee voted to support recommend the Right-to-Farm ordinance and three tax incentive options to the Town Council at the Council's February 13 meeting.

**New Business**

5. *Community Farms Program* – Jennifer presented features of the Ct. Department of Agriculture's new Community Farms Program, which will offer grants to purchase development rights on farms that are too small (less than 30 acres) to qualify for their existing grant program. The Town must submit an application to qualify for this program by May 31. Applications for grants for specific projects are due by July 31. The committee will work on items needed to qualify for this grant program.

**Executive Session**

6. The committee voted to go into executive session at 8:55 and to come out of executive session at 9:05. The committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the Open Space Preservation Committee.

7. The meeting adjourned at 9:05. The next meeting is on February 7.

