

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
DRAFT Minutes of February 4, 2014 meeting  
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Cyr called the meeting to order at 7:32.

Present: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Vicky Wetherell, , Kathleen Paterson, Ed Hall, Brian Kielbania, Jennifer Kaufman (staff). Guest: Stacey Stearns.

2. Minutes of the December 3, 2013 meeting were approved. (The January 7 meeting was cancelled.)

**Old Business**

3. *Mansfield Tomorrow* A draft of the POCD will be available in February for review by the committee.

4. *March meeting date* The committee will meet on Thursday, March 6 rather than the scheduled date (March 4) because the Mansfield Tomorrow Advisory Committee will be meeting on that evening.

5. *Farmers Meeting* The committee discussed an agenda for this meeting, which is scheduled for March 19 at E O Smith's Vo-Ag center from 7:15 to 8:30 for members of the agricultural community and town officials. Vo-Ag students will offer a tour of the facilities at 6:30. The agenda will include a brief report on the committee's activities. Jennifer will present an introduction to the proposed Town Plan and the agricultural portion of the Plan, followed by discussion.

6. *Agriculture leases – Baxter field* Charlie Galgowski proposed changes in the lease to address his concern about making a large investment in the field without a more secure agreement that he would be able to renew the lease after 10 years. The Town's attorney has offered revisions for the lease that would address the concerns, and the committee reviewed those revisions. The committee voted to recommend that the Town Council consider the revisions to the lease that were presented at our meeting.

**New Business**

7. *Chicken Manure on Town Leased Ag. Land* Bill Varga requested that the committee review his proposal to apply chicken manure to the Mt. Hope Park field at a future time. The committee discussed practices recommended by NRCS that would prevent runoff impacts on the nearby wetlands and pond. The committee recommended that if these practices were followed, chicken manure could be applied to the field.

**Executive Session**

8. The committee voted to go into Executive Session at 9:09 and to come out of Executive Session at 9:35. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Town Manager.

9. The meeting adjourned at 9:40. Next meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2014.

**Future Agendas**

New farmer initiatives, easements, budget for outreach efforts.