

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
April 5, 2016 Minutes

Attendance: Al Cyr, Stacey Stearns, Terry Wollen, Jason Stearns, Vicky Wetherall, Ed Hall, Jennifer Kaufman (staff) Rich Miller, Paul Ferry, Jiff Martin (guests)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35. Terry moved to accept the march minutes, Vicky seconded.

Rich Miller and Paul Ferry from UCONN discussed the farmland mitigation work that is currently going on off of Route 32, north of Route 44. They gave a slide show showing how the University is in the process of creating 40 acres of prime farmland soils from previously wooded acreage. This is considered acreage replication for 36.3 acres of prime farmland used for building projects at UCONN. This will provide a unique research opportunity, they stated, for UCONN to research the value of restored acreage.

Jiff Martin presented many projects connected to her work with Mansfield Public Schools around sustainable food systems and the Farm to School Initiative. Although she works for UCONN Extension she emphasized that this work was more on a personal level of connecting kids to healthy food and "Living Locally". Some projects that are upcoming are: October Farm to Table at Goodwin School, Put Local on Your Tray and a Harvest Lunch using Mansfield Grown food. When asked how the Ag Comm could help, she said that signaling the new Superintendent that these are good project ideas would be a big help. It was suggested that Jiff meet with CSA owners to plan these events.

Jiff also spoke about the "Live Local" on the Mansfield Trail at the UConn Extension website and how the Ag Comm could add their brochure to that as a link.

Reports were given on the March Farmers Forum. Members felt it was successful.

Jennifer reported on the Ag Comm meeting with the EDC Comments were positive on the presentation by Stacey Stearns and the Mountain Dairy representative. It was remarked that the Commission had many questions and that future work with them was entirely possible.

Having a booth at Celebrate Mansfield is planned and on schedule for happening.

The Regional event at Cranberry Hill Farm in Ashford is approved and Jennifer will go ahead with planning.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Al Cyr gave notice that he was resigning his position as Chair. The Committee approved having Stacey Stearns as interim Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

