



Mansfield Tomorrow

OUR PLAN ► OUR FUTURE

AGRICULTURE FOCUS GROUP MEETING

Tuesday, April 30, 2013 | 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Town Hall Council Chambers

Minutes

Present: Rich McAvoy, Jim Raynor, Ed Wazer, Michael O'Neill, Jiff Martin, John Guskowski, Vicky Wetherell, Charlene Cutler, Karen Green, Andrew Zadora, Elisabeth Moore, Al Cyr, Eva Csejtey, Joan Buck, Larissa Brown, Mike Looney, Joan Nichols, Samantha Dunn, Jackie LeBlanc, Aline Booth, Amy Kohn George Thompson, Staff; Linda Painter, Jennifer Kaufman.

- I. Introductions and overview of meeting- Jennifer Kaufman introduced the Mansfield Tomorrow Project and the work that has been done thus far.
- II. Background / How We Got Here/ Introduce Research Focus Areas
Samantha from Yellow Wood discussed that based on the results of the February workshop, the Mansfield Agriculture Committee confirmed the following four areas as the focus for best practices research and strategy development. These include:
 - Engaging municipal employees, elected officials, and Town committees and commissions in appreciating the contributions of agriculture economically, socially, and environmentally.
 - Identifying, streamlining and increasing transparency of regulations that impact agricultural viability.
 - Providing farmers with access to up-to-date, research-based, information on best agricultural practices that provide environmental and public health benefits.
 - Engaging state universities including students, staff, and administration, and institutions of higher learning in general in supporting local/regional agriculture.
- III. Discuss Strategies- Members of the group discussed strategies. Samantha from Yellow Wood led the group through an exercise where the potential strategies for progress based on research conducted to date were introduced and the participants discussed the strategies to determine:
 - Which strategies are most relevant to Mansfield?
 - Which strategies are most likely to be implemented?
 - Which strategies should be priorities for further best practices research?
- IV. Reflections
 - Public Comment- There was no public comment
 - Next steps and Adjourn- The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.