

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

- a. Present: Melanie, Melissa, Ray, Aaron, Michael
- b. Missing: Diane, Terry, Alex
- c. Public: Ruth
- d. Meeting was called to order at 9:33am

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Farmer's Forum 2026 Planning

- Room booked at Lenard Hall for 3/26, 6:30pm
- Food
 - 1. Ask Maraiah to prepare spread, and label any local food
 - 2. Ray mentioned that Thompsons is good too
- Topic: Agriculture Regulation Changes (local); PA 490 Revisions (State)
 - 1. Melanie will present on Ag Reg Changes (Local)
 - 2. Michael offered to make a few slides for presentation
 - 3. Discuss how changes will affect farmers in town, and how other towns can learn from process we went through in Mansfield
 - 4. Prepare to talk about Right to Farm Signs in Mansfield
 - a. Have draft prepared
 - b. Who is interested in signs, bumper sticks, flags, etc
 - 5. Invite Ella Kennen from New CT Farmers Alliance to talk about PA 490 and Farm Bill in State Legislature this year
 - a. Invite Kim Stoner again as well
- Flyer and Promotion: Anyone new for the Invitee list?
 - 1. Michael will update the flier, including small blurb about any presenters
 - 2. Physical promotion in Library, Community Center
 - 3. Post in the Chronicle – Nicole Zappone
- Potential Changes in the future
 - 1. Invite public to have some kind of social hour with farmers in town
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4. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

a. Staff Report

- Train derailment
- Minimal breach of hydrocarbons into field or river
- Some animal waste was spilled, and soil tests are coming back soon.
- One of the Green's farm fields is being used as the staging area for cleanup and remediation of the crash
- There may be long term remediation necessary to fix compaction, surface hydrocarbons, etc.
- Reach out to planning office with any questions.
- Ray – advocating for farmer, so that they get reimbursed for any costs associated with remediation. Farm should be restored to be able to be in production

b. Taste of Mansfield

- Community Dinner several months ago was incredibly successful. Increased diversity and turnout. May be expanded to 2 times a year.
 1. Interested in adding line item in the budget to make sure there are funds allocated for this program.
- Question about Mansfield Farms to Families
 1. Funding is not yet secured
 2. Council supports in concept and wants to support financially. It may be brought up this season – budget considerations may start in March

c. Recruitment

- Give Michael their email. He will reach out and invite them to next meeting.
- Fill out a form with the clerks office, get them on committee for committees
- This Committee has six primary members, and 4 alternates. There are 3 spots currently available. Alternates can participate in all meeting discussions and can vote if quorum is not met with primary members (it is usually not)

5. COMMUNICATIONS

6. FUTURE MEETINGS

- a. March 12th 9:30am
- b. Prep for Farmers Forum

7. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 10:16 am