

MINUTES

- Members Present:** M. Tindall, S. Stearns, A. Eitland, , C. Kueffner, D. Dorfer,
- Members Absent:** J. Emenheiser, M. Desch, E. Hall, L. Trovato,
- Guest Present:** R. Fricano
- Staff Present:** J. Kaufman. Director of Planning and Development/Senior Planner;
M. Stankov, Environmental Planner;

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Stearns called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Members present are: M. Tindall, S. Stearns, A. Eitland, C. Kueffner, D. Dorfer.

M. Stankov introduced himself to the commission. R. Fricano introduced himself to the commission and noted his desire to become involved in the future.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

S Stearns MOVED, C. Keuffner seconded, approval of the January 11, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1. Farmer's Forum

A. Eitland spoke to his preparations for organizing the event. Discussion about remaining steps to be taken ensued, including finalization of the invitation and necessary steps for notification.

C Keuffner MOVED, D Dorfer seconded, to move the date of the forum to April 13 to allow sufficient time to notify attendees.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

4.2 **Membership**

It was noted that there are still two open alternate positions on the committee.

4.3 **Communication/Outreach Initiatives**

The commission discussed the upcoming Beekeeping event with DJ Shooks on Friday April 28. The topic of contributing to local newspapers and newsletters with articles about agriculture was discussed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. **Connecticut's Countryside: 4 Town Regional Committee**

Involvement in the committee was discussed. D. Dorfer and S. Stearns gave their thoughts on potential involvement based on the initial information meeting they attended. Desire to remain involved with regional agriculture initiatives in Ashford and Windham was discussed.

5.2. **Sustainable CT**

J. Kaufman gave an update about certification status and goals for the future. Ways to coordinate Agriculture Committee activities with Sustainable CT goals were discussed.

5.3 **Taste of Mansfield Update**

It was noted that Taste of Mansfield is looking for nominees for their yearly Champion awards. Taste of Mansfield also requested that a member of the Agriculture Committee could review the nominees and help them make a choice for the yearly award. Nominations were noted to close on March 24.

6. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

D. Dorfer noted several upcoming events, grants that she was involved in, and community agriculture projects.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

S. Stearns noted that the Coventry Farmer's Market will be having their 20th anniversary in June and was looking to have someone from the Agriculture Committee to promote local agriculture.

8. FUTURE MEETINGS

S. Stearns noted that this would be an RFP year for town owned leased agricultural land, and would need to be discussed at future meetings.

Discussion next moved to the topic of in-person meetings. The commission decided to hold November and January meetings in person going forward.

9. ADJOURNMENT

C Keuffner MOVED, D. Dorfer seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Stankov", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Stankov, Environmental Planner