
Creating An Agricultural Commission

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR

The following ordinance was adopted at a special Town Meeting duly warned and held on March 6, 2012
“AN ORDINANCE CREATING AN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION”

Be it ORDAINED that:

CHARGES/DUTIES: The Agricultural Commission shall be an advisory board with the following charges and duties:

1. **Information-** To serve as a conduit between non-profit agencies, civic organizations, municipal boards and commissions, elected officials and local farmers. To serve as an agricultural clearinghouse by creating an informational website and map of local farms. To chart land use in East Windsor to support a balance between agriculture, preservation and other land uses.
2. **Education-**
 - To recommend changes to language and practices to other Boards and Commissions, when appropriate, regarding agriculture, farming and farms.
 - Provide information and guidance, when appropriate, on agricultural-related zoning issues;
 - Provide opportunities to support young farmers and new farmers; and
 - Support local, regional, and state vocational agricultural education programs.
3. **Conflict Resolution-** The Agricultural Commission shall be available as a resource and to serve, if requested, in a non-binding conflict resolution capacity to residents, established town committees and departments as it relates to farming issues. The Commission will provide information to the Town staff, boards and commissions as appropriate and when requested concerning complaints between farmers and neighbors, farmers and farmers, etc. and will direct the complainers to other agencies or resources that may be available to assist.
4. **Economic Opportunities-** The Agricultural Commission shall:
 - Identify opportunities for farming additional lands in East Windsor;
 - Promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to support and value farming;
 - Serve as a conduit between non-profit agencies, funders and local farmers;
 - Create a climate that supports the economic viability of farming in East Windsor.
5. **Membership-** The Agricultural Commission shall consist of five (5) members and two (2) alternates to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Insofar as practical, members appointed shall be representative of all groups interested in the management, protection and regulation of agriculture as defined by Connecticut General Statutes 1-1q, particularly those directly involved with agriculture. One shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year. Two shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years and two shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. All subsequent appointments shall be for a term of three (3) years. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation. If a member shall fail to attend a majority of meetings in a year, or shall have four (4) consecutive unexcused (not excused by the chairman, or his designee, of the board, commission or committee), the chairman, or his designee shall send a certified letter asking for his/her resignation. ~If such member fails to submit his resignation, within ten (10) days of notice such chairman, or his designee, shall submit a written request for removal of said Member to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Selectmen shall proceed as described in Ordinance 11-02, “**Town of East Windsor Rules of Procedure and Grounds for Removal of Appointive Board and Commission Members**”.
6. **Officers-** The members of the Commission shall meet and elect a Chairman who shall preside over the call of its meetings and a Vice-Chairman who shall perform the Chair’s duties in his or her absence. The election of Officers shall take place annually in December.
7. **Reports-** The Commission shall from time to time, but not less often than annually, submit a report of its activities to the Board of Selectman and may submit any other requested reports.

This ordinance adopted at a Special Town Meeting duly warned and shall become fully effective as provided by law fifteen (15) days from the publication thereof.

March 6, 2012

Town Clerk of East Windsor