

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

BE IT ORDAINED that the electors of the Town of Canterbury at a duly warned meeting held on February 17, 2011 adopted the following ordinance:

Section 1. There is hereby established, pursuant to the authority conferred by Section 7-148 of the Connecticut General Statutes, a commission for the Town of Canterbury to be designated as the Town of Canterbury Agriculture Commission.

Section 2. The Agriculture Commission shall consist of five (5) members and three (3) alternates, appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The First Selectman shall serve as ex-officio member. The Commission shall be subject to "An Ordinance Regarding Attendance at Meetings of Appointed Boards and Commissions". Appointments shall be made by March 31 of each year. Initial appointments will be as follows: 3 members to serve from adoption of Ordinance until March 31, 2014; 2 members to serve from adoption of Ordinance until March 31, 2013; one alternate to serve from adoption of Ordinance until March 31, 2014; and two alternates to serve from adoption of Ordinance until March 31, 2013. Thereafter, appointments shall be for three year terms.

Section 3: The Board of Selectmen shall fill any vacancy occurring in any term before its expiration.

Section 4: Members shall receive no compensation for service. Members shall elect their own officers and establish their meeting schedule, with one scheduled regular meeting per month.

CHARGE/DUTIES: The Agriculture Commission shall be an advisory/non-regulatory board to the Board of Selectmen and other Town Officials with the following charges and duties:

General:

- a. To encourage agricultural viability and preservation of agricultural land in Canterbury.
- b. To serve as a conduit between local farmers and civic organizations, municipal boards and commissions, town officials, and non-farm residents.
- c. To act as a resource for agricultural information.

Education and Outreach

- a. To increase awareness of agricultural enterprises in the community.
- b. To promote the value of viable agriculture to the Town in the areas of employment, property taxes, environment, and farmland preservation.
- c. To provide information and recommendations on agriculture-related issues to town departments, boards and commissions, and residents as necessary.
- d. To encourage young farmers by supporting local, regional, and state vocational agriculture education, and 4-H programs.
- e. To provide support and assistance to new agricultural enterprises.

Economic Opportunities

- a. To identify opportunities to preserve and expand agriculture in Canterbury.
- b. To promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to support agriculture.
- c. To provide information regarding available financial support related to agricultural viability.

This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in accordance with law.

Passed at Town Meeting February 17, 2011.
Published February 24, 2011.