

RESOLUTION 22-147

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING CHARGING DUTIES TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND APPOINTING MEMBERS TO SUCH COMMITTEE

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, the Town of Lansing Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan was adopted via Resolution 15-101, on September 16, 2015, whereupon it was incorporated into the Town's comprehensive plan, and such plan calls for a permanent committee to follow-up on the goals, updates, and other agricultural plans set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Committee (the "Committee") was initially created to develop a farmland protection plan pursuant to grant money awarded by NYSDAM and such committee had an informal existence until Resolution 17-46, adopted January 18, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Advisory Committee is officially reformed and will have 11 members (one of which is the Chairperson, and one of which is the Vice Chair), appointed for coincident 3-year terms; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Town hereby formally reaffirms the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Advisory Committee the "Committee"), as a perpetual, standing, citizens' advisory committee comprised of one Chairperson, one Vice Chair, and 9 other members, each and all as appointed by the Town Board (including vacancies), with each position being at the will of the Town Board. Membership upon the Committee is by appointment by the Town Board for 3-year terms running concurrently and commencing January 1, 2023, ending December 31, 2025. Any vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term by appointment by the Town Board. At least 4 members of the Committee shall be owners or substantially involved in the operation of a commercial farming enterprise located in the Town of Lansing that engages in the production, preparation, or marketing of fruits, vegetables, field crops, nursery stock, flowers, livestock or livestock products, including commercial horse boarding and breeding operations, Christmas tree farming, timber processing, the production of compost, mulch, or other biomass crops, woodland farm products, beekeeping or honey production. Members of the Committee may be removed at any time, with or without cause and for any or no reason, by resolution of the Town Board. Members of the Committee may resign or withdraw at any time, with or without cause, and for any or no reason, and an oral or written resignation shall be irrevocable once communicated to the Chairperson of the Committee, the Town Clerk, or the Town Supervisor.

2. The following persons be and hereby are appointed to the Committee for three-year terms expiring on December 31, 2025:

Connie Wilcox, Chairperson

John Fleming, Vice Chairperson
Adam Buck
Todd Eldred
James Hatfield
Christine Hass
Jeannine Kirby
Peter Larson III
Larry Moore
Steve Nedrow
Ken Patchen

The Chairperson of the Committee shall be appointed from time- to-time by the Town Board. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice shall conduct meetings and other actions by and for the Committee.

3. The Committee shall pursue agricultural and farmland promotion and protection goals as outlined in NYS Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25-AAA, in the General Municipal and Town Laws, and as more specifically defined and proposed in the 2015 Town of Lansing Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, as adopted in September, 2016. The Committee shall thus and also pursue the following purposes, goals, reviews, operations, recommendations, etc.:
- a. To advise the Town of Lansing regarding agricultural policy in the Town; to provide educational resources for sharing information among farmers and agriculturally-based businesses; and to educate Town residents and officials about farming and farmland issues.
 - b. To provide regular input, comment, and analyses upon zoning, site planning, taxation, and other regulatory and mapping issues pertaining to agriculture, agricultural sales, and the development, transportation and marketing of agricultural and woodland goods and products in commerce in and through the Town; to serve as a clearinghouse for relations between farm operations and the Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Department, Code Enforcement Officers, and other officers and agencies of Town Government, including to provide a forum for concerns about Town policy, Town operations, or other matters relating to farming in the Town, including the making of referrals upon farm related subjects that may result in policy reviews, changes, or recommendations; to develop, promote, and encourage appropriate conservation strategies, best-practices, and sustainable agricultural practices and activities; and to review and advise upon private and public development and redevelopment projects, including the environmental reviews thereof, whenever requested by the Town Board or other agencies engaged in such reviews, with a specific focus and eye towards advising concerning the impact or potential future impacts upon agriculture, agricultural enterprises, and future agricultural opportunities and developmental plans within the Town of Lansing and surrounding areas and regions.
 - c. To provide input for annual additions to the County Agricultural Districts and input upon the eight-year review of County Agricultural Districts; and to encourage and assist applications to farmland preservation programs and, when such applications are submitted, provide input into the review thereof.

- d. To examine and monitor trends in agriculture and local farming activity; to determine obstacles and fiscal issues and obstacles facing agricultural enterprises; to identify pressures upon agricultural lands and soils; to recommend reasonable and desirable plans and solutions to the Town to overcome or assist with the mitigation of such obstacles so as to preserve such lands and agricultural enterprises; to identify and promote direct marketing and commodity marketing opportunities for local farmers, expand value-added agricultural operations in the Town, and identify and promote methods whereby existing farmers can be encouraged to continue in active agricultural operation; and to assist in the connection between those interested in agricultural businesses and production and the location of available opportunities and lands within the Town of Lansing to fulfill such goals.
- e. To review, suggest updates to, and take the lead in developing recommendations relating to the Town's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan; to recommend reasonable and desirable changes to this listing of responsibilities; to undertake other appropriate tasks requested by the Town Board; and to examine any other matters reasonably and directly related to the above tasks and goals.

4. The Committee shall meet at least twice annually at such times and locations as shall be set by the Chairperson. The Committee may meet more often or at regularly scheduled times and intervals as the Committee may decide. The Committee shall also hold at least one meeting a year to which the general public and members of the local farming community are invited to attend as guests.

5. The Committee shall be a citizens' advisory committee and not a capital or other planning committee. The Committee shall keep required accurate records of its meetings and actions and file required annual reports with the Town Board on or before the Town's organizational meeting, yearly.

6. The Town Board, Planning Board, ZBA, and town staff and employees shall reasonably cooperate to provide data, information, and support to the Committee to assist it in the pursuit of the goals and purposes herein described. The Committee may request technical assistance and specialized advice from any resource it may deem appropriate, including but not limited to other local residents, the Tompkins County Departments of Planning or Assessment, the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation Counsel, the Tompkins County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, the Finger Lakes Land Trust, the American Farmland Trust, the Land Trust Alliance, the New York Agricultural Land Trust, the New York Planning Federation, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization, and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

7. The Town Board may adopt other rules of procedures for the Committee which, once adopted, shall be controlling. In the absence of the same the Committee may itself adopt such operational rules and procedures as it deems prudent for its operations. However, in limitation thereof and as a citizens' advisory committee, the Committee may not authorize any expenditure of Town funds or enter into any contract arrangements for payment of services. Funds necessary for proper committee operation or technical assistance may be requested by the Committee from the Town Board and, in accordance with customary procedures, the Town Board may authorize such funds,

approve the expenditure thereof, and execute contracts in support of approved expenditures. The Town Board may also, consistent with budgetary requirements and rules, provide budgetary funding for the Committee's use for paper, mailing, and like and related miscellaneous expenses relating to the work of the Committee.

The question of adoption of such proposed Resolution was duly motioned by Councilperson Joseph Wetmore, duly seconded by Councilperson Andra Benson, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Andra Benson – Aye
Councilperson Bronwyn Losey – Aye
Supervisor Edward LaVigne – Aye

Councilperson Ruth Groff – Aye
Councilperson Joseph Wetmore – Aye

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolution was approved, carried, and duly adopted on December 21, 2022.