

RESOLUTION APPROVING DISSOLUTION OF 2023 AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION COMMITTEE, AND RE-FORMATION OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION COMMITTEE UNDER TOWN CODE CHAPTER 7

RESOLUTION 26-

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

WHEREAS, upon the long-standing recognition of a continuing need for a functioning Agriculture and Farmland Protection Committee for a multitude of town tasks, from periodic evaluation of agricultural regulations and zoning laws that affect agriculture, to periodic adoption of updated county agricultural district maps, the Town Board has determined that it is in the public interest to maintain an Agriculture and Farmland Protection Committee; and

WHEREAS, the formation of such committee is a Type II SEQRA Action such that no further environmental review is required, and upon deliberation upon the foregoing, the Town Board has determined and resolved as follows:

1. The dissolution of the existing Agricultural and Farmland Protection Committee is hereby approved, and the formation and creation of a new Agriculture and Farmland Protection Committee (“AFPC”) is also hereby approved. Such committee shall be a Standing and General Committee under Town Code Chapter 7.
2. The AFPC shall be comprised of one Chairperson and at least 4 members. At least 2 members of the AFPC shall be owners of, or substantially involved in, the operation of a commercial farming enterprise located in the town 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, and beekeeping or honey production.
3. Appointments are for 3-year terms running concurrently. All members serve at the pleasure of the Town Board, and any vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term by appointment by the Town Board. Members of the AFPC may resign or withdraw at any time, with or without cause, and written resignation shall be irrevocable once communicated to the Chair, the Town Clerk, or the Town Supervisor. The following persons be and hereby are appointed to the AFPC for three-year terms: Steve Nedrow, Chairperson, Adam Buck, Vice Chairperson, John Fleming, Todd Eldred, James Hatfield, Jeannine Kirby, Peter Larson III, Larry Moore, and Ken Patchen.

4. The AFPC shall pursue agricultural and farmland promotion and protection goals as outlined in NYS Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25-AAA, in the General Municipal Law and Town Law, and as more specifically defined and proposed in the 2015 Town of Lansing Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, as adopted September 2016 and the Town of Lansing Comprehensive Plan (2018). The AFPC shall thus and also pursue the following purposes, goals, reviews, operations, and recommendations:

- a. To advise the town 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; and to examine and monitor trends in agriculture and local farming activity to help identify obstacles and fiscal issues facing agricultural enterprises and negative pressures and impacts upon agricultural lands and soils.
- b. To provide regular input, comment, and analyses upon zoning, site planning, taxation, and other regulatory 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; and 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 to fulfill such goals.
- c. To develop, promote, and encourage appropriate conservation strategies, best-practices, and sustainable agricultural practices and activities and, whenever requested by the town to review and advise upon private and public development and redevelopment projects, including the environmental reviews thereof, with a specific focus upon the impact or potential future impacts upon agriculture, agricultural enterprises, and future agricultural opportunities and developmental plans within the town and surrounding areas and regions.
- d. To provide input for annual additions to the County Agricultural Districts, input upon the eight-year review of County Agricultural Districts, to encourage and assist applications to farmland preservation programs and, when such applications are submitted, provide input into the review thereof.
- e. To review, suggest updates to, and take the lead in implementing and developing further 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 examine any other matters reasonably and directly related to the above tasks and goals.

5. The AFPC shall meet at least quarterly at such times and locations as shall be set by the Chairperson. The AFPC may meet more often or at regularly scheduled times and intervals as the AFPC may decide. The AFPC 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. The AFPC

shall submit its meeting minutes and a quarterly operating report to the Town Board as to matters reviewed, considered, undertaken, or decided upon, whether formally or informally.

6. Town staff and agencies shall reasonably cooperate to provide data, information, and support to the AFPC to assist it in the pursuit of the goals and purposes described herein. The AFPC may request technical assistance and specialized advice from any resource it may deem appropriate, including but not limited to local residents and municipalities, the Tompkins County Departments of Planning or Assessment, the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation Council, 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 AFPC may also adopt such internal operational rules and policies as are consistent with law and Town Code Chapter 7, and any rules or standards promulgated by the Town Board.

8. The AFPC shall not authorize any expenditure of town funds or enter into any contract arrangements for payment of services. Funds necessary for proper committee operations or technical assistance may be requested 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 AFPC's use for paper, mailing, and the like, and related miscellaneous expenses relating to the work of the AFPC.