

## **AGRICULTURE COMMISSION**

### **ESTABLISHMENT**

There shall be established an Agriculture Commission to be designated as the “Tolland Agriculture Commission” (hereinafter referred to as the “Agriculture Commission”).

### **MEMBERSHIP; APPOINTMENTS AND VACANCIES; TERMS**

- A. The Agriculture Commission shall consist of five regular members and two alternate members with a strong interest or background in agriculture.
- B. Vacancies will be filled by the Town Council according to town policy in effect at the time of vacancy.
- C. The terms shall be staggered three year terms with initial three members for three years and two members for two years. One alternate for three years and one alternate for two years.
- D. There shall be an ad hoc seat for one FFA or 4-H member for a term of one year who shall be non-voting member but eligible to fully participate in all discussions.

### **POWER AND DUTIES**

The Agriculture Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- 1. Research a “Right to Farm” ordinance for consideration by the Town Council.
- 2. Survey farmers/producers/landowners to update the inventory of agricultural land and working farms.
- 3. Work with farmers and the town commissions for a greater understanding of agriculture.
- 4. Promote locally grown and produced agriculture products and the benefits of locally grown.
- 5. Apply for an Agricultural Viability Grant and other grants to help fund the survey and promotion of locally grown products.
- 6. Research the best uses and management of town owned agricultural land and oversee those uses.
- 7. Work to find grants and funding for preservation of agricultural land subject to the approval of the Town Council.
- 8. Serve as a central location for agricultural resources for farmers, the public and town commissions.

9. Work with animal control and public safety for emergency preparedness for livestock owners and sensitive agricultural structures such as greenhouses.
10. Advocate for more locally produced food in our school cafeterias.
11. Support youth groups and organizations in their pursuit of agricultural interests.
12. Work with the town to establish a process for use/lease of town owned agricultural land.
13. Interface with the Farmer's Market for the promotion of locally grown products.
14. Other powers and duties may be assigned to this commission by the town council.

### **MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

The meetings of the Agriculture Commission shall be open to the public and it shall comply with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.