

# *Town of Franklin*

## *Ordinance on*

### *Agricultural & Conservation Commission*

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Be it **ORDAINED** that the electors of the Town of Franklin at a duly warned **Special Town Meeting** held on **May 27, 2010**

#### **SECTION I: Mission**

To encourage conservation and sustainable use of Franklin's resources and protect and encourage agriculture as an industry and a culture for Franklin's natural resources.

#### **SECTION II: Charge / Duties**

The Agriculture and Conservation Commission (hereafter "Commission") shall be a board of the Town of Franklin with the assigned functions of (1) undertaking those actions specified by Connecticut General Statute 7-131 of a duly appointed Conservation Commission and (2) to act as an advisory board to provide to the Town of Franklin, its various land use boards and commissions and interested individuals information, education, conflict resolution and economic opportunities with respect to the conduct of agricultural activities within the Town of Franklin.

In addition to those specific duties specified in General Statute 7-131a, the Commission shall undertake the following specific charges and duties.

- A. Information:** To serve as a conduit between non-profit agencies, civic organizations, municipal boards and commissions, elected officials, residents and local farms. To create and distribute informational resources and maps of local farms and conservation areas.
- B. Education** – To recommend changes to language and practices across town departments and other boards and commissions. To provide information to town government about laws and legal issues regarding conservation, farm machinery, buildings and operations. To provide information and guidance on conservation and agriculture-related issues – such as zoning, inland wetland, public works and others – to town departments and other boards and commissions as necessary. To act as a sounding board and provide review to town departments, boards and commissions concerning the impact of proposed town policies on conservation land and farms. To support farmers and new farms. To support local, regional and state vocational agriculture and conservation education programs. To increase awareness of agricultural enterprises in the community.
- C. Conflict Resolution:** To serve as a resource for information and non-binding advice for landowners, residents, established town committees and departments concerning the resolution of agriculture and conservation related conflicts.
- D. Economic Opportunities:** To identify innovative opportunities for farming additional land in Franklin. To promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to support and value farming. To serve as a conduit between non-profit agencies, agricultural financing organizations, and local farms. To work to create a climate that supports the economic viability of farming as a career in Franklin. To create a sustainable agriculture community.

#### **SECTION III: Membership**

- A. Appointment:** Members and alternate members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Town of Franklin, the First Selectman, in accordance with State Statute 7-131 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- B. Membership:** The Commission will consist of five (5) members and three (3) alternates. Insofar as practical, the membership of the Commission shall be representative of all groups interested in the management, protection and regulation of agriculture as defined by Connecticut Statutes 1-1q and for the development of conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources. No member of the Commission may simultaneously serve as a

member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Inland wetlands Commission or the Zoning Board of Appeals. The failure of a voting member to attend four (4) consecutive meetings of the Commission shall constitute cause for the First Selectman to remove the member and fill the position thus vacated. Members of the Commission shall service without pay.

- C. Term of Office:** Staggered 3-year terms, with initial appointments to be 3 members for 3 years and 2 members for 2 years. One (1) alternate to be for 3 years and two (2) alternates for 2 years.

#### **SECTION IV: Organization / Meetings.**

- A. Organization:** The first organizational meeting of the Commission shall be conducted within thirty (30) days after the appointment of the fifth member of the Commission. The annual organizational meeting for the Commission shall be held on the first regular meeting in January of each year. A chairman, vice-chairman and a secretary will be elected and will serve for a term of one year.
- B. Meetings:** The Commission shall establish an annual schedule of regular meetings which shall be provided to the Town Clerk and published as required by Connecticut Statutes. The Commission may conduct special meetings provided meeting notice requirements of Connecticut General Statutes are satisfied.

#### **SECTION V:**

- A.** If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.
- B.** Said Commission is subject to minority representation as required by Section 9-167a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

#### **SECTION VI:**

This ordinance shall be come effective fifteen (15) days after publication as provided by Connecticut General Statute 7-157.

Adopted by vote of Town Meeting legally warned and held May 27, 2010.

Effective FIFTEEN (15) DAYS after publication.

**Published Date: June 1, 2010**  
**Effective Date: June 15, 2010**