

Appendix M

Sample Legislation and Language for Establishing an Agricultural Advisory Committee

APPENDIX Sample Legislation and Language for Establishing an Agricultural Advisory Committee

A municipal Agricultural Advisory Committee can be established by resolution of the Town Board, or by local law. Two examples are included here. The Town of Ithaca used a resolution to establish the Committee while the Town of Eden used a local law to achieve the same end. While both mechanisms are valid, using a local law instead of a resolution provides more clarity on the membership of the committee and its duties and responsibilities. Such clarity can be helpful to both the community and the Committee in understanding their role and interaction with other Town Boards and Committees.



TOWN OF ITHACA

126 EAST SENECA STREET, ITHACA, N.Y. 14850

FINAL

TOWN CLERK 273-1721 HIGHWAY 273-1656 PARKS 273-8035 ENGINEERING 273-1747 PLANNING 273-1747 ZONING 273-1747

Town Board Meeting 10/5/92
Agenda Item No. 33
Town of Ithaca Agricultural Committee
Resolution No. 266

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Committee of the Town of Ithaca Conservation Advisory Council has presented their report Planning for Agriculture in the Town of Ithaca to the Conservation Advisory Council, the Town of Ithaca Planning Board and Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Agriculture Committee solicited input from representatives of various segments of the agricultural community in preparing its report; and

WHEREAS, the report outlines the contributions agriculture makes to all residents of the Town of Ithaca and recommends actions to foster a healthy agricultural sector in the Town; and

WHEREAS, one of those recommendations is the establishment of a permanent Town of Ithaca Agricultural Committee in order that there might be a mechanism for the agricultural sector in the Town to inform the Town of their concerns, of state and national legislation that influences agriculture, and to be available to the various Boards of the Town as a resource in decision making; now therefore be it

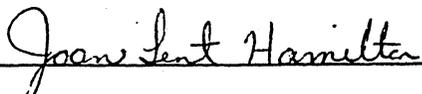
RESOLVED, that the Town of Ithaca hereby establishes a Town of Ithaca Agriculture Committee. Members of the Committee, not to exceed eight in number, will be appointed by the Town Board. Officers of the Committee will be appointed by the Town Board, upon recommendation of the Agricultural Committee. Christiann Dean is hereby appointed Chairwoman Pro Tem, in order that a meeting of persons interested in serving on the Agriculture Committee may be convened. Recommendations for appointment to one year terms should be forwarded to the Town Board for action. The Committee once appointed, shall recommend to the Town Board a list of officers, Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.

MOVED: Supervisor Raffensperger

Carried Unanimously

SECONDED: Councilman Whitcomb

DATED: October 5, 1992



Joan Lent Hamilton, Town Clerk

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE ITHACA TOWN BOARD
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2004**

TB RESOLUTION NO. 2004-122: Consider Increasing the Number of Members on the Agricultural Committee

WHEREAS, members of the Town of Ithaca agricultural community met June 28, 2004, to recommend representatives to serve on the Town Agricultural Committee, and

WHEREAS, there were a number of individuals interested in serving on the Agricultural Committee, and

WHEREAS, Town Board Resolution No. 266 of 1992 limits membership to eight persons, now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ithaca increases membership on the Agricultural Committee from eight to nine members.

MOVED: Councilman Engman

SECONDED: Councilman Stein

VOTE: Supervisor Valentino, aye; Councilwoman Grigorov, aye; Councilwoman Gittelman, aye; Councilman Stein, aye; Councilman Engman, aye.



TOWN OF ITHACA

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TOWN CLERK 273-1721 HIGHWAY 273-1656 PARKS 273-8035 ENGINEERING 273-1747 PLANNING 273-1747 ZONING 273-1783
FAX (607) 273-1704

TOWN BOARD MEETING - 5/8/00
Agenda Item No. 17
APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS
AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Resolution No. 66

WHEREAS, the Town Board on July 12, 1999 adopted the Policies and Procedures Manual for the Town of Ithaca Agricultural Land Preservation Program; and

WHEREAS, said policies and procedures call for the establishment of the Town of Ithaca Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee to (a) advise the Town Board on all proposed policies, rules and regulations for the administration of the program; (b) review all applications for participation in the program; and (c) make recommendations to the Town Board regarding all agricultural conservation easement acquisitions; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee is to be comprised of (1) the Town Supervisor or his or her designee; (2) the chairperson of the Planning Board or their designee; (3) two members of the Agriculture Committee; and (4) one Town Board member, for a total of five members; now, therefore, be it

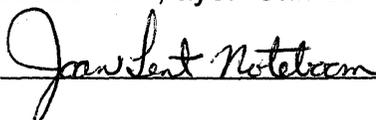
RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ithaca hereby appoints the following members to the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee for a term of office through December 31, 2000, retroactive to January 1, 2000:

Catherine Valentino, Town Supervisor
William Lesser, Town Board Member
Fred Wilcox, Chair, Planning Board
A. Thomas McMillan, Member Agriculture Committee
Debbie Teeter, Member Agriculture Committee

MOVED: Councilman Niederkorn

SECONDED: Councilman Klein

Supervisor Valentino, aye; Councilwoman Russell, aye; Councilwoman Grigorov, aye; Councilman Klein, aye; Councilman Conley, aye; Councilman Lesser, aye; Councilman Niederkorn, aye. Carried unanimously.



Joan Lent Noteboom, Town Clerk

Joan Lent Noteboom, Town Clerk

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Eden 4-13-1994 by L.L. No. 1-1994. Amendments noted where applicable.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Public improvement -- See Ch. 158.

§ 5-1. Title.

This chapter shall be known as the "Agricultural Advisory Committee Law of the Town of Eden, New York."

§ 5-2. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to:

A. Recognize the importance of agriculture as both a vital local economic base and as a land form that provides the Town of Eden with much of its rural, rustic character and charm.

B. Assure the continued viability of farming as an industry which is important to the local economy and to the preservation of open space and vistas.

C. Provide for the most beneficial relationship between the use of land and buildings and the agricultural practices of the community and to further encourage the wise use and management of the town's natural resources through modern farming practices.

D. Provide the Town Board, Planning Board and other relevant boards/committees of our government with a conduit for recommendations from the agricultural community on the long- and short-term impact of a variety of matters and questions considered by these groups.

§ 5-3. Formation of Committee; membership; terms of office.

A. The Committee shall be composed of five members appointed by the Town Board as follows:

(1) Five residents of the Town of Eden from the agricultural community, including but not limited to representatives from the greenhouse, crop production and dairy segments

of the industry. The members shall recommend a Chairperson for appointment by the Town Board.

(2)One member of the Planning Board, the Board of Assessors Chairperson, one representative from the Erie County Farm Bureau and one member of the Town Board shall serve as ex officio members.

B.The members appointed to the Committee shall serve for a three-year term. Upon initial formation, one member shall serve for a one-year term, two members for a two-year term and all others for a three-year term. Each year thereafter, reappointments or new appointments will be for three-year terms.

C.Appointments shall be from January 1 through December 31.

D.Members shall serve without salary.

§ 5-4. Powers and duties.

The Committee shall:

A.Advise the Town Board and the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board in relation to the proposed establishment, modification, continuation or termination of any county agricultural district. The Board shall present advice relating to the desirability of such action, including advice as to the nature of farming and farm resources within any proposed or established area.

B.Review of proposed zoning change or development in agricultural districts.

(1)Whenever a proposed zoning, policy change or development (residential, business or industrial) affecting town agricultural zoning districts is presented to the Town Board within or contiguous to a county agricultural district or town agricultural zones, it shall be referred to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for review. The Agricultural Advisory Committee shall have 45 days to respond with a recommendation(s) for the action(s).

(2)The Board shall present advice relating to the desirability of such action, including advice as to the nature of farming and farm resources within any proposed or established area. This recommendation(s) shall include a determination as to whether the proposed action(s) will have an unreasonable adverse effect on the continuing viability of a farm enterprise or enterprises within the county or town agricultural districts. This recommendation(s) shall be advisory only.

C.Review county, state and federal legislation affecting agricultural issues and communicate the effect to the appropriate board and/or the Town Board.

D.Serve as a vehicle for communication between the agricultural community, the town and/or the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board.