

Establishment of Agricultural Advisory Committee

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Rochester (Town) recognizes the importance of agriculture and agricultural related enterprises as vital to the Town's economic base and in protecting and preserving the Town's rural character through the use and management of the Town's natural resources for farming and farming related enterprises and practices, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town desires to establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee ("Committee") for the Town of Rochester to advise the Town Board on issues, whether arising from within the Town or outside of the Town, that impact agriculture and agricultural related enterprises within the Town of Rochester and provide recommendations to the Town Board when appropriate, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Rochester desires the Committee to, in addition to their advisory function, work with the Town Board, the community, and other interested parties, to promote agriculture and agricultural related enterprises that are located within the Town of Rochester, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town Board of the Town of Rochester establishes an Agricultural Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee"), which shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Board, and it is further

RESOLVED, The Committee shall consist of the following membership composition:

A. The Committee shall be composed of 7 members appointed by the Town Board as follows:

- 1) Members shall be appointed from residents of the Town of Rochester. The Town recognizes that an effective Agricultural Advisory Committee is comprised of members from the agricultural community, including but not limited to: those engaged in agriculture or agricultural related enterprises such as from the nursery, crop production, brewery/winery, agritourism, and dairy segments of the industry; those with an interest in small scale agriculture or hobby farming; and those with a background in agriculturally related organizations, industries or technical assistance programs.
- 2) The Town Board may, notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of law, appoint up to two members to the Committee who are between the ages of 16 and 21.
- 3) The Committee shall designate the Chairperson.

B. The members appointed to the Committee shall serve for a three-year term. Upon initial formation, 2 members shall serve for a one-year term, 2 members for a two-year term, and 3 members for a three-year term. Each year thereafter, reappointments or new appointments will be for three-year terms.

C. Members shall serve without compensation.

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Rochester designates the following as the duties of the Committee, subject to revision from time to time at the Town Board's discretion:

- 1) Review of proposed land use code changes. Whenever a proposed local regulation is presented to the Town Board that may affect agricultural operations or lands within the Town of Rochester shall be referred to the Committee for review. The Committee shall have 30 days to respond with a recommendation(s) for the action(s).
- 2) The Planning Board may refer applications that might impact agricultural operations or lands to the Committee for comment. The Committee shall have 30 days to respond with a recommendation(s) for the action(s).
- 3) Review land use policies, zoning, and legislation to make recommendations to the Town Board on how to encourage and preserve agriculture.
- 4) Advise the Town Board and, upon direction from the Town Board, the Ulster County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, in relation to the proposed establishment, modification, continuation or termination of any county Agricultural District. The Committee shall present objective advice to the Town Board relating to the desirability of such action, including advice as to the nature of farming and farm resources within any proposed or established area.
- 5) Complete and periodically update an inventory of parcels included within a certified Agricultural District and parcels being used for agricultural activities.
- 6) The Committee shall also work with the Town Board, the Rochester community, and other interested parties, to support agriculture and agriculture-related enterprises that are located within the Town of Rochester.
- 7) Perform outreach to owners of agricultural parcels or those who are engaged in agricultural activities as defined by Town Code to provide information about federal, state, and local agricultural resources.
- 8) The Committee shall be subject to Public Officers (PBO) CHAPTER 47, Article 7, Open Meetings Law. Minutes shall be prepared Filed with the Town Clerk.
- 9) The Committee shall meet as determined necessary, scheduled two weeks in advance and noticed as required by NYS law by the Committee but no less than quarterly.
- 10) The Committee shall submit to the Town Board an annual report of the activities of the Agricultural Advisory Committee no later than January 31 of the following calendar year.

And it is further,

RESOLVED, that upon filing with the Clerk and appointment of members by the Town Board the Committee shall schedule a public meeting within 30-days to establish its rules of procedure and conduct business as deemed appropriate by the Committee members