

WARRANT ARTICLE

Barre, Massachusetts

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

An article for the creation of an Agricultural Commission in the Town of Barre, Annual Town Meeting-June 12, 2006.

Article: To create an Agricultural Commission to address and represent agricultural and forestry issues and interests in the Town of Barre.

The mission of the Commission shall be to:

1. Represent the Town's farming and forestry community internally and externally;
2. Encourage, promote and support the pursuit of farming and forestry in the Town both as a business and as a community resource; and
3. Promote the protection, preservation and economic use of farmland and forestland within the Town.

The duties and responsibilities of the Commission shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Serving as representatives, advocates, educators, facilitators and/or mediators on farming and forestry issues both within the Town and externally;
2. Advising the Select Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and other Town bodies on all matters pertaining to farming or forestry activities in Town;
3. Engaging in projects and activities, including educational programs and community events, to promote the business, activities and traditions of farming and forestry, as well as farm and forest land protection in Town;
4. Developing warrant articles, policies and procedures advocating and promoting agriculture and forestry; and
5. Reporting to the Annual Town Report on its projects and activities.

The Commission shall consist of three members appointed by the Select Board. At least two members shall be actively engaged in farming or forestry related activities, as his or her principal occupation. The members shall serve staggered three-year terms each, with two of the initial members serving two-year terms and one of the initial members serving a one-year term. Up to two voting alternates may be appointed by the Select Board, each with a one-year term. Any vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Select Board, based on the recommendations of the Commission, for the unexpired term of the vacancy in order to maintain the staggered cycle of appointments.