

**Town of Thompson
The Thompson Agriculture Commission**

ESTABLISHED:

MISSION: Per the Thompson Plan of Conservation and Development adopted November 23, 2009. The mission of the commission is to maintain, sustain, and enhance agriculture so that it will remain a fundamental part of the Thompson landscape and economy by providing flexibility to assist in the evolution of the agricultural industry.

CHARGE/DUTIES: The Thompson Agriculture Commission shall be an advisory board with the following charges and duties:

General

- a. To foster sustainable agriculture in Thompson.
- b. To serve as a conduit between local farmers and non-profit agencies, civic organizations, municipal boards and commissions, elected officials, and non-farm residents.
- c. To advocate for agriculture before land use and other committees and commissions.
- d. To act as a resource for agricultural information.

Education and Outreach

- e. To increase awareness of agricultural enterprises in the community.
- f. To provide information to town government about agricultural laws and legal issues.
- g. To promote the value of agriculture viability in the areas of employment, property taxes, environment and open space preservation.
- h. To provide information and guidance on agriculture-related issues—such as zoning, inland wetland, public works and others—to town departments and other boards and commissions, and other members of the community, as necessary.
- i. To support farmers by supporting local, regional, and state vocational agricultural education programs.
- j. To recognize and support farming operations and farms.

Conflict Resolution

- k. To assist in limiting farm and non-farm conflicts

Economic Opportunities

- l. To identify opportunities for expanding agriculture in Thompson.
- m. To promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to support farming
- n. To provide information regarding available financial support related to agricultural viability.
- o. To foster a climate that supports agricultural viability in Thompson.

ELECTED/APPOINTED: Appointed by the Board of Selectmen

MEMBERSHIP: The Agriculture Commission will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes. Insofar as practical, members appointed shall be representative of all groups interested in the management, protection and regulation of agriculture as defined by Connecticut General Statutes 1-1q, particularly those directly involved in agriculture. The initial appointments to the Commission shall be five (5) regular members and four (4) alternate members as follows: One member to be appointed for a term of 1 year; one member to be appointed for a term of 2 years; one member to be appointed for a term of 3 years; one member to be appointed for a term of 4 years; and one member to be appointed for a term of 5 years. Alternate members shall be appointed initially in the same manner: One alternate member to be appointed for a term of 1 year; one alternate member to be appointed for a term of 2 years; one alternate member to be appointed for a term of 3 years; one alternate member to be appointed for a term of 4 years. Thereafter each new appointment shall be for a term of 5 years, except that, vacancies occurring for any reason, appointments may be made to fill the unexpired portion of such term. A meeting to elect a chair, vice chair and a secretary shall occur annually. Each December a schedule of meetings for the upcoming year shall be filed with the Town Clerk.