

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A CONSERVATION AND AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

Be it ORDAINED that the electors of the Town of Lebanon at a duly warned Special Town Meeting held on March 5, 2012:

The Conservation and Agriculture Commission (the "Commission") shall be advisory to the Board of Selectmen and other Town officials and follow the provisions set forth in Connecticut General Statutes 7-131a. and Public Act No. 11-188 in addition to the following charges.

CHARGES: The Commission shall extol the role of Lebanon's natural resources and agriculture as major contributors to the Town's quality of life and the economy. The Commission will advocate for conservation and agricultural issues before non-profit agencies, civic organizations, municipal boards and commissions, elected officials and residents. The Commission will adhere to and promote Lebanon's "Plan of Conservation and Development" and "Right to Farm" ordinance while fostering public awareness of the importance of the environment and agriculture and how these enhance and preserve Lebanon's rural character.

In addition, the Commission shall:

- Recommend lands for preservation, giving priority to those that protect natural resources, agricultural viability and Lebanon's rural-agricultural character.
- Provide information and guidance on protecting natural resources and agricultural viability -- related to zoning, wetlands, watercourses, public works and others -- to town departments and other boards and commissions and residents.
- Promote the value of natural resources, conservation lands and agriculture to the Town in areas of property taxes, environment, employment and other quality of life and economic issues.
- Increase awareness of Lebanon's natural resource assets, passive recreation opportunities and agricultural enterprises, including recognizing and supporting existing and new farms and identifying opportunities to preserve and expand agriculture.
- Serve as a conduit between local farmers and Lebanon government, non-profit agencies, civic organizations and non-farm residents and provide advisory services.
- Act as a town resource for conservation and agriculture information.

MEMBERSHIP: The Conservation and Agriculture Commission shall consist of seven (7) voting members and three (3) alternate members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. In addition, a student member of Lyman Memorial High School Ag. Science department shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The failure of a voting member to attend four (4) consecutive meetings of the Commission may constitute cause for the Board of Selectmen to remove the member and fill the position thus vacated. A chair and vice chair/secretary shall be elected by the Commission and serve for a term of two (2) years.

LENGTH OF TERM: Staggered three (3) year terms, with initial appointment to be three (3) members serving for three (3) years, two (2) members serving for two (2) years, and two (2) members serving for one (1) year. Alternate members shall serve staggered three (3) year terms with one (1) member serving for three (3) years, one (1) member serving for two (2) years and one (1) member serving for one (1) year. The ex-officio student member shall serve a one (1) year term.

This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes.