CT Planners Name Lebanon "Community of the Year"

While there are 169 towns that comprise Connecticut, Lebanon was recognized as the "Community of the Year" by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association for its on-going efforts to preserve its agricultural-based economy and town character.

The following introduction was given by Marty Connor, Goshen Town Planner at the December 11th Awards Ceremony:

> The Lebanon Conservation Commission was originally formed in 1972. In 2012 this commission was re-designated as the Conservation and Agriculture Commission. This deliberate and intentional action was based on the desire to protect Lebanon's natural resources. This on-going mission continues to recognize the role agriculture has played in the town's history, economy and quality of life.
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> Since this time, Lebanon has led Connecticut in agriculture preservation. Lebanon's land use commissions, town planner, residents and town leadership have ensured that its Plan of Development, land use planning and resulting decisions reflect the importance of maintaining an agricultural based economy and the quality of life gained through the protection of the very same resources that sustain it.
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> In its new era of innovative and thoughtful planning, Lebanon has accomplished an incredible amount of accolades.
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> As a result of this effort, Lebanon has over 5,000 acres of permanently preserved farmland, representing 12% of all farmland preserved in the State and the number of Lebanon farms has increased dramatically over the past decade, reversing an overall state trend. The Town welcomes new farmers and is willing to assist them with establishing their farms and showing them the mechanisms in place that will also maintain the town's character.
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> In recognition of its extraordinary efforts, and for truly being a model community, the Chapter is recognizing Lebanon as its 2015 Community of the Year.

Lebanon shares this award with all those who understand the importance of agriculture and its link to preserving community character.