



TOWN OF BOZRAH

TOWN HALL

1 RIVER ROAD

BOZRAH, CT. 06334

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Ordinance 2012-4

At a Town Meeting held on 10 July 2012 in the cafeteria at Fields Memorial School the following ordinance was adopted

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BOZRAH, CONNECTICUT,
ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURE COMMISSION.**

WHEREAS, the Town of Bozrah wishes acknowledge that agriculture plays a significant role in Bozrah's rural character and way of life; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bozrah wishes to establish a Commission to encourage the preservation of agriculture in Town, promote agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protect prime farmland within Bozrah; and

WHEREAS, General Statute §7-148 empowers the Town of Bozrah to make this ordinance in furtherance of the general powers given to it by said General Statutes..

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF BOZRAH IN LAWFUL TOWN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED THAT:

Section 1. The ordinances of the Town of Bozrah be amended by adding a section to read as follows:

- A. Establishment. There shall be established an Agriculture Commission for the Town of Bozrah. Said Commission shall be composed of five (5) regular members and two (2) alternate members who shall be residents of the Town, who shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Not more than four (4) of the regular members shall be of the same political party.
- B. Membership; Term; Appointments; Vacancies. The members of such Commission first appointed shall be designated to serve as follows: three (3) regular members until December 15, 2015, two (2) regular members until December 15, 2014, and two (2) alternate members until December 15, 2014. Thereafter each member shall be appointed to serve for three (3) years. The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a resident to fill each expired term, and shall

consider recommendations from the Commission for such appointments. Each member shall hold office until his/her successor is appointed and qualified. Any vacancy in the membership of the Commission shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen shall consider recommendations from the Commission for such unexpired term.

- C. Removal; Compensation. The Board of Selectmen may remove any member for cause, provided each such member shall be afforded notice and a public hearing before the Board prior to removal. All members of the Commission shall serve without compensation for their services.
- D. Duties. The Commission shall encourage the continued support and promotion of land-based agriculture as a primary land use in Bozrah by protecting farmland for current and future generations; promoting agriculture-based economic opportunities; and, allowing agricultural uses and related activities to thrive as the Town grows
- E. Organization; Meetings; Powers. The Commission shall annually elect its own Chair and such officers as it shall from time to time determine to be necessary. The Commission shall also determine and establish its own policies and rules of procedure. No action of the Commission shall be valid unless authorized by a majority of its members. The Commission shall meet at least quarterly to carry out its duties as outlined in this ordinance. The Commission shall have the power and authority to apply for and receive appropriations from the Town of Bozrah, as well as the power and authority to apply for and receive state and federal grants from state and federal agencies and other sources on behalf of the Town, and to expend any monies received by it from any source to carry out its duties under this ordinance. The Commission shall follow the "Bozrah Agricultural Commission Charge" as reviewed by the Board of Selectmen on 19 June 2012 and recorded with minutes of same.
- F. Reports. On or before September 1st of each year, the Commission shall prepare and submit to the Board of Selectmen a report of all of its actions and activities, and the activities held at Agriculture, for the fiscal year ending on the previous June 30th.

Section 2. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of any other part of this ordinance that can be given affect without the invalid provisions or applications; and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance and the various applications thereof are declared to be severable.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after Notice of its passage is duly published.

Bozrah Agricultural Commission Charge

Adopted ___ 19 June 2012 BOS _____

CHARGE/DUTIES: The Agriculture Commission shall be an advisory board to the Board of Selectmen and other Town officials with the following charges and duties:

General

- a. To foster agricultural viability and preservation of agricultural land in Bozrah.
- b. To serve as a conduit between local farmers and non-profit agencies, civic organizations, municipal boards, commissions and committees, elected officials, and non-farm residents.
- c. To advocate for agriculture before land use and other relevant boards, commissions and/or committees.
- d. To act as a resource for agricultural information.
- e. To inventory land use in Bozrah to assist in planning for a balance between agriculture, preservation, and other land uses.
- f. Should the Town own farmland, promote keeping Town-owned farmland in agricultural production. In addition, to ensure the responsible use of Town-owned farmland by monitoring use agreements between the Town and local farmers.
- g. To serve as a resource for information and non-binding advice for residents, established town committees and departments concerning the resolution of agriculture related issues.

Education and Outreach

- a. To increase awareness of agricultural enterprises in the community.
- b. To promote the value of viable agriculture to the Town in the areas of employment, property taxes, environment and farmland preservation.
- c. 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 committees and residents as necessary.
- d. To support young farmers by supporting local, regional, and state vocational agricultural education, and 4-H programs.
- e. To recognize and support new farming operations.
- f. To act as a sounding board and provide review to town departments, boards and committees concerning the impact of proposed town policies on agricultural activities.
- g. To promote opportunities for Bozrah's agricultural products and services providers to collaborate and coordinate activities with each other and with other product and service providers in the region.

Economic Opportunities

- a. To identify opportunities to preserve and expand agriculture in Bozrah.
- b. To promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to support agriculture.
- c. To provide information regarding available financial support related to agricultural viability.

MEMBERSHIP: All residents interested in Agricultural Issues are encouraged to attend. Agriculture Commission will consist of not more than 5 voting members and 2 alternates appointed by The Board of Selectmen in accordance to 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 1-1(q), particularly those directly involved in agriculture. The failure of a voting member to attend four (4) consecutive meetings of the Commission without excuse may constitute cause for the Board of Selectmen to remove the member and fill the position thus vacated. A chair, vice chair and a secretary will be elected.

Effective Date: 1 August 2012 (Publication date in the Bulletin: 18 July 2012)