

Holly C. Lasagna, Ward One
Robert P. Hayes, Ward Two
Andrew D. Titus, Ward Three
Alfreda M. Fournier, Ward Four



Leroy G. Walker, Ward Five
Belinda A. Gerry, At Large
David C. Young, At Large

Jason J. Levesque, Mayor

IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE 14-12022019

Be it Ordained, that the Auburn City Council hereby adopts the proposed amendment to Chapter 2, Article V, Boards, Commissions and Committees to add Division 8, Agriculture Committee .

Division 8. – Agriculture Committee
Section 2-485.1 – Purpose

The purpose of the Agriculture Committee shall be to proactively build a stronger food, agricultural, and resource economy in Auburn and to address the ongoing needs of protecting and promoting farms, farmland, forestry businesses, woodlots, local agriculture economy and local forestry economy.

Section 2-485.2 – Committee established

An Agriculture Committee is hereby established to consist of nine members, of whom seven members shall be appointed by the City Council and shall be residents of the city with highest priority given to selecting members who are actively engaged in agriculture or forestry. At least one member shall have professional experience in an area directly related to forestry and at least one shall have direct professional experience in an area related to agriculture. The other nonvoting members shall be residents or landowners. The seven regular members appointed by the City Council shall appoint up to two nonvoting members.

The terms of office shall be three years except that initial appointments after the date of adoption of the ordinance from which this division derives shall be such that the terms of no more than three members shall expire in any single year. For that purpose, the City Council shall initially appoint one members for terms of one year, three members for terms of two years, and three members for terms of three years, such that the terms of approximately one-third of the members shall expire each year. Subsequent appointments shall be for a term of three years.

Section 2-485.3 – Qualifications

All members of the Committee shall be selected upon the basis of their active involvement, interests, skill or expertise in agriculture, forestry, food system economics, public policy or related fields. All voting members shall be residents of the City.

Section 2-485.4 – Powers and Duties

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The Committee shall:

1. Make recommendations to the Planning Board and City Council and consult with the Conservation Commission regarding the ongoing needs of protecting and promoting farms, forestry businesses, farmland, woodlots and building a stronger food, agricultural and resource economy in Auburn.
2. Promote opportunities for farm financing and farm, forestry or natural resource business development proposals, conservation and preservation of agricultural lands and encourage the marketing of Auburn's agricultural and forestry products;
3. Seek to coordinate the activities of local, State and regional organizations of similar purposes and collaborate to assist with education of the community regarding food systems, agriculture and forestry;
4. Research methods, best practices and successful policies that other communities are using to strengthen and support agriculture and forestry and share information and ideas with community leaders.
5. Periodically review the Auburn Comprehensive Plan, ordinances and land use trends that relate to agriculture and forestry in order to identify potential barriers and opportunities to modify Auburn's policies and ordinances to better support agriculture and forestry.
6. Support broad public participation in changes to municipal policies and ordinances that affect agriculture and forestry and provide opportunities for public input as changes are proposed.
7. Review applications for a Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program and perform related duties as requested by the Auburn City Council.
8. Keep records of its meetings and activities and make an annual report to the city council;
9. Undertake any other agricultural or forestry related activity referred to it by the city council;
10. Adopt by-laws to govern the internal affairs of the Committee including meeting frequency;
11. May perform such other functions as are permitted by this Code.

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12. Should any project in the City require the submission of a farm plan, the committee shall review the farm plan and provide a recommendation to the Planning Board within 60 days.

Section 2-485.5—Officers, meetings and records.

1. The members shall elect from their membership a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a secretary. Officers shall serve two-year terms.
2. All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public, and notice, shall be provided to the public about such meetings.
3. The Committee may request that testimony provided during public hearings in front of the Committee be provided under oath.
4. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings.

Section 2-485.6 – Committees

The Committee may vote to create subcommittees and appoint members of such subcommittees to work on specific projects.

Section 2-485.7 – Quorum and necessary vote

As to any matter requiring a public hearing, no business shall be transacted by the Committee without a quorum, consisting of at least half of the voting members of the committee. If less than a quorum is present, the hearing shall be rescheduled, and the members and other interested parties shall be notified of the rescheduling.