

TOWN OF EAST LYME
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The East Lyme Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT in the Upper Meeting Room to consider the following ordinance entitled "Ordinance Establishing an Agricultural Commission:

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

1. There is constituted a five member Agricultural Commission. The members shall be appointed within ninety days after the adoption of this ordinance, in the following manner: three terms shall be filled by appointment until the first Monday of January, 2012, at which time they shall be filled by appointment for four years. Two term(s) shall be filled by appointment until the first Monday of January, 2014, at which time they will be filled by appointment for four years.

2. There shall be one alternate member of the Commission. The term of the alternate member shall be filled by appointment until the first Monday of January, 2012, at which time it shall be filled by appointment for four years.

3. A. Insofar as practical, Commission members 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.

B. The Commission may recommend to the Board of Selectmen persons for vacancies on the Commission.

4. The Commission shall support agriculture and aquaculture in East Lyme, through education, communication and the promotion of the economic viability of farming, as follows:

A. Information:

1. Serve as a conduit between nonprofit agencies and local farmers;
2. Serve as an agricultural clearinghouse by creating an informational website and map of local farms;
3. Chart land use in East Lyme to support balance between agriculture and preservation and other land uses.

B. Education:

1. Recommend modifications of regulations of other boards and commissions and practices of town departments;
2. Keep town government aware of agricultural laws, such as right to farm, and legal issues regarding farm machines;
3. Provide information about agriculture-related issues to town departments and other boards and commissions;
4. Provide opportunities to support young farmers and new farmers, such as the farmer-to-farmer program, Landlink and other mentoring

- programs;
5. Support local, regional, and state vocational agriculture education programs.
- C. Economic Opportunities:
1. Identify innovative opportunities for farming additional lands in East Lyme;
 2. Promote opportunities for residents and local businesses to support and value farming;
 3. Serve as a conduit between nonprofit agencies, funders and local farmers;
 4. Create a climate that supports the economic viability of farming as a career in East Lyme.

5. The Commission shall from time to time, but not less often than annually, submit a report for inclusion in the town's annual report, and may submit other such reports as may be requested from time to time.

Dated at East Lyme, CT this 3rd day of February, 2010.

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN