

We would like your support of the warrant article that will be on the Town Ballot in March to establish an Agricultural Commission in the Town of East Kingston. These are some of the benefits that it can bring to the Town. It will not cost any tax dollars to establish this advisory commission.

This warrant article has the support of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and the Selectmen.

Why an Agricultural Commission?

The purpose of an agricultural commission is to protect agricultural lands, preserve rural character, provide a voice for farmers, and encourage agriculture-based businesses and activities. This is in keeping with East Kingston's Master Plan. For years New Hampshire farmers have served as stewards of the land and water resources, including habitat for native plants and animals. As New Hampshire grows, citizens are looking for ways to support local farms and foster new ones.

An agricultural commission advises other town boards and advocates for the interests and needs of agriculture in the community. It has no regulatory or enforcement powers. Members work cooperatively with other Town or city governing and land-use boards and commissions to ensure the concerns and interests of farmers are better understood and considered in decision-making.

What are some of the things an Agricultural Commission can accomplish?

- Create a favorable interface between town growth and farming
- Create a favorable interface to assist in the management of conservation land
- Help with control of the build-up of new developments
- Establish another voice regarding zoning situations
- Assist with identifying easement properties
- Create a level of food security through utilization of our local farm system
- Help teach the importance of organic farming and soil building
- Establish community gardens
- Improve the link to our SAU 16 education community regarding local agriculture
- Working with the school system to raise awareness of buying local and supporting our local farmers
- Assist with the creation and support of local agricultural niche businesses such as:
 1. Marketing niche products such as honey, baked goods, soaps, candles, crafts, wool, leather, apples, cider, dairy products, eggs, meats, hard cider, and wine.
 2. Support the possibility of uniting family home gardens and potential sale of produce at a town farmers market.
 3. Helping to coordinate farm land leasing to local entrepreneurs desiring to grow produce
 4. Assisting with the communications and selling in the local farmers markets.

For more information or answers to additional questions you might have, please contact:

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