

MINUTES
Ordinance Committee
Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Annmarie Drugonis, Trisha Danka, and Phil Wilhelmy

Others Present: Town Counsel, Attorney Ryan Driscoll; Chief Administrative Officer, Kurt Miller

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order

First Selectwoman, Annmarie Drugonis, called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public comment

None.

ITEM #4: Discussion and possible action

- a) **Right to Farm**
- b) **Agricultural Committee**

- **Right to Farm:** Attorney Driscoll stated that he had received a copy of the Right to Farm Ordinance developed by the Town of North Branford for reference. Annmarie explained that the intent was to adopt the existing state statute, including any future amendments, rather than develop separate ordinance language. Attorney Driscoll stated that he would relay this information to Attorney LeClerc for further review and preparation of the appropriate wording.

This item was tabled until the next meeting in November.

- **Agricultural Committee:** Annmarie reviewed the proposed purpose of the Seymour Agricultural Committee, which would be to promote, preserve, support, and strengthen agriculture within the Town of Seymour. The Board agreed with the proposed purpose.

Membership of the committee: "two active farmers or agricultural producers, one agricultural landowner or Seymour resident, one representative or liaison familiar with conservation and natural resources, one representative or individual familiar with land use, planning zoning or wetlands issues, one representative of Seymour's business or economic development community, one Seymour resident with experience or interest in agriculture gardening, food systems, agricultural education, youth programs or related community activities."

The Board discussed membership requirements, qualifications, and age restrictions. Phil suggested having five members with a background or experience in agriculture, appointed by the Board of Selectpersons. The Board also discussed encouraging youth involvement, with Kurt suggesting the addition of two student liaisons.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Seymour Agriculture Committee shall:

- Identify and promote the needs of Seymour's farmers, agricultural businesses, and agricultural property owners
- Encourage the continued agricultural use of suitable land within Seymour
- Identify opportunities for farmland preservation and conservation
- Develop and maintain an inventory of agricultural resources, farms, farm businesses, and agricultural land within the Town where appropriate
- Recommend policies that support agriculture and reduce unnecessary obstacles to legitimate agricultural activities
- Review proposed Town policies or regulations affecting agriculture when requested and provide advisory recommendations
- Encourage farm stands, farmers markets, community-supported agriculture, agritourism, and other opportunities that connect residents with local agriculture
- Promote the purchase and use of locally grown and locally produced agricultural products

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- Encourage agricultural education and opportunities for youth involvement in farming, gardening, food production, and natural-resource stewardship
- Assist farmers and agricultural property owners in identifying available municipal, state, federal, and nonprofit programs, grants, technical assistance, and farmland-preservation opportunities
- Work cooperatively with the Conservation Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, Economic Development Commission, Sustainability Committee, Town Planner, and other appropriate Town entities
- Develop recommendations concerning agriculture for consideration during updates to Seymour's Plan of Conservation and Development
- Promote public awareness of Seymour's agricultural history and present-day agricultural community
- Provide recommendations to the Board of Selectpersons concerning matters that significantly affect agriculture within Seymour

The Board agreed with the proposed three-year staggered terms and reviewed the duties and responsibilities. Phil suggested replacing "farmers" with "farming" in the first sentence. Annmarie stated that she would simplify the language and present a revised version at the next meeting.

Motion to add to the agenda approval the minutes of the previous Ordinance Committee Meeting

Motion: Phil Wilhelmy

Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 3-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Motion to approve minutes from the last Ordinance Committee Meeting

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Phil Wilhelmy

Vote: 3-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Trisha Danko – Yes

ITEM #5: Public comment

None.

ITEM #6: Adjournment

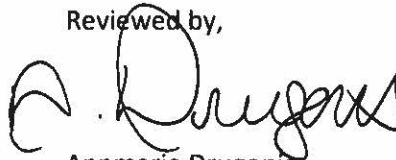
Annmarie Drugonis adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



Annmarie Drugonis
First Selectwoman