

CHAPTER 5 **AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

§ 5-1 Title.

This chapter shall be known as the “Agricultural Advisory Committee Law of the Town of Eden, New York.”

§ 5-2 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to:

- A. Recognize the importance of agriculture as both a vital local economic base and as a land form that provides the Town of Eden with much of its rural, rustic character and charm.
- B. Assure the continued viability of farming as an industry which is important to the local economy and to the preservation of open space and vistas.
- C. Provide for the most beneficial relationship between the use of land and buildings and the agricultural practices of the community and to further encourage the wise use and management of the town’s natural resources through modern farming practices.
- D. Provide the Town Board, Planning Board and other relevant boards/committee of our government with a conduit for recommendations from the agricultural community on the long- and short-term impact of a variety of matters and questions considered by these groups.

§5-3. Formation of Committee; membership; terms of office.

- A. The Committee shall be composed of five members appointed by the Town Board as follows:
 - (1) Five residents of the Town of Eden from the agricultural community, including but not limited to representatives from the greenhouse, crop production and dairy segments of the industry. The members shall recommend a Chairperson for appointment by the Town Board.
 - (2) One member of the Planning Board, the Board of Assessors Chairperson, one representative from the Erie County Farm Bureau and one member of the Town Board shall serve as ex officio members.
- B. The members appointed to the Committee shall serve for a three-year term. Upon initial formation, one member shall serve for a one-year terms, two members for a two-year term and all others for a three-year term. Each year thereafter, reappointments or new appointments will be for three-year terms.
- C. Appointments shall be from January 1 through December 31.
- D. Members shall serve without salary.

§ 5-4. Powers and duties.

The Committee shall:

- A. Advise the Town Board and the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board in relation to the proposed establishment, modification, continuation or termination of any county agricultural district. The Board shall present advice relating to the desirability of such action, including advice as to the nature of farming and farm resources within any proposed or established area.
- B. Review of proposed zoning change or development in agricultural districts.
 - (1) Whenever a proposed zoning, policy change or development (residential, business or industrial) affecting town agricultural zoning districts is presented to the Town Board within or contiguous to a county agricultural district or town agricultural zones, it shall be referred to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for review. The Agricultural Advisory Committee shall have 45 days to respond with a recommendation(s) for the action(s).
 - (2) The Board shall present advice relating to the desirability of such action, including advice as to the nature of farming and farm resources within any proposed or established area. This recommendation(s) shall include a determination as to whether the proposed action(s) will have an unreasonable adverse effect on the continuing viability of a farm enterprise or enterprises within the county or town agricultural districts. This recommendation(s) shall be advisory only.
- C. Review county, state and federal legislation affecting agricultural issues and communicate the effect to the appropriate board and/or the Town Board.
- D. Serve as a vehicle for communication between the agricultural community, the town communicate the effect to the appropriate board and/or the Town Board.
- E. Meet as determined necessary by Committee members, but no less than two times a year for review and recommendation purposes. These annual review and recommendations shall focus on zoning, planning activities and other actions within the county agricultural districts and the town agricultural zones.
- F. Submit to the Town Board an annual summary of the activities of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.