



City of Keene
New Hampshire

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION AGENDA

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

3:30 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Commission Members

Sarah Wilton, Chair
Catherine (Kit) Souther, Vice Chair
Councilor Bettina A. Chadbourne
Mark Florenz, Member
Aaron Moody, Member
Charles Daloz, Member

Staff Present

Rhett Lamb, Planning Director
Michele Chalice, Planner

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Approve April 11, 2018 minutes
- 3) Agriculture Commission Brochure - Draft Review
- 4) Agriculture Commission Facebook Page Discussion
- 5) "NH HB1233 Seed/Fertilizer Deregulation"
- 6) Volunteer Urban Garden Discussion
- 7) New Agenda Items
- 8) Next Meeting – Wednesday, July 11, at 3:30PM
- 9) Adjournment

What We Do

- Public education and awareness about local agriculture
- Advocating for farmers and farm businesses
- Provide visibility for farming
- Help resolve farm related problems or conflicts
- Advise and work with other boards and commissions on issues facing local farms
- Conduct inventories of agriculture resources, historic farms, and farm buildings
- Advocate for protection of farmland and other natural resources



Corn field at Green Wagon Farm



Gardens at Stonewall Farm

DRAFT

City of Keene Agriculture Commission

3 Washington Street Keene, NH 03431

Phone: 603 352 0133

<http://www.ci.keene.nh.us/agricultural-commission>



Keene Agricultural Commission

An advisory committee created to ensure proper recognition, promotion, enhancement, encouragement, use, management, and protection of agriculture and agricultural resources in the interest of the economic prosperity, cultural and aesthetic enrichment, natural resource protection, and general welfare of the community.



Photo courtesy of The Farmers' Market Of Keene

Agriculture In Keene

Projects

Resources



*Wildflowers and seasonal farmstand at
Dusty Dog Farm*

- Educational Brochure on raising chickens for household egg production
- Mapping community gardens
- Assisting community gardens and home gardeners
- Promoting green space and pollinator habitats
- Problem solving efforts for local farmers and the farmers' market

- **Keene has a rich agricultural history and is a farm/homestead friendly community**
- **Well established farmers' market**
- **Community gardens**
- **Pollinator habitats**
- **Local 4-H and FFA organizations**
- **Diverse local products both past and present including dairy, crops, wool, meat, eggs, hay, honey, maple products, and lumber**



Keene community gardens

HB1233

WHAT? Preemption of local regulation of seeds and fertilizer.

Pro

- **Consistency of statewide regulation – many farms fall under more than one jurisdiction**

Note: When Senator Feltes asked for examples of conflicting regulations, none were offered. Former DAMF Commissioner Lorraine Merrill heard of local ordinances that restricted the use of seeds and fertilizers for agriculture use. HB 1233 is a preventive measure.

- **Consistency with Federal Seed Act Title 7 (interstate transfer of seeds)**
- **USDA: Never been a farm decertified due to Genetic Engineering**
- **Local municipalities still have power to regulate certain activities**
- **Fertilizer erroneously implicated in pollution**
- **Prevents communities from discriminating against certain types of farming**

Those who support the bill: Commissioner Shawn Jasper (DAMF), Robert Johnson (NH Farm Bureau), Gene Harrington (Biotechnology Innovation Organization), Representative Matthew Scruton (Strafford-District 12), Representative Richard Gordon (Rockingham-District 35), Rob Morrill (Morrill Dairy Farm, LLC), Ryan Pettiti (TruGreen), Bob Mann (National Association of Landscape Professionals), Representative John T. O'Connor (Rockingham – District 6), Representative Howard Pearl (Merrimack-District 26), Denis Ward (NH Farm Bureau), Erick Sawtelle

Con

- **Interests of local farms vary in the state; local control of farms is important**
- **Inability of local communities to regulate fertilizers near waterbodies – i.e., town of Fitzwilliam has 75-100 ft. buffer on all-prime wetlands, a more rigorous buffer than state**
- **HB 1233 language is funded by outside organizations who want to utilize GMO seeds**
- **HB399 (State regulation of pesticides where children play) rejected in favor of local control**
- **GMO's contain chemicals that impact environment – localities ought to be able to regulate**
- **State over reach**
- **Petition of farmers opposed to 1233**

Those opposed: LarisaTrexler,SarahLaeng(NOFA-NH),NikkiKolb(NOFA-NH),KathyCahill,GaryUlin,RenaWoods,JohnTuthill,JeanneSable,James L.Rodger, ConnieGilman,GaleTaylor,MonicoChristofili, Representative James McConnell (Cheshire-District12),Jamie Duggan (DogRoseFarm), DianeSt.Germain, MaryWilke, Louise Spencer, Sally Hatch, Maura Willing, Liz-Anne Platt, Michelle Sanborn (NH Community Rights Network), Dennis Jakabowski, Representative Marjori Shepardson (Cheshire-District 10), Susan Covert, Deb Cinamon, Representative Lee Oxenham (Sullivan-District 1), Catherine Corkery (NH Sierra Club), Kevin Wooley, Bonnie Wright, Representative Peter Bixby (Strafford-District17), Representative Paula Francese (Rockingham-District 18), Joe Magruder.

Those neutral: Nature Conservancy – language included in bill to protect certain areas; has no equities in farms/fertilizers; NH Department of Environmental Services: Terf fertilizer known source of nitrogen pollution, provided letter of opposition from Rivers management; HB 393 already preempted local authority; felt local regulation was preferred

STATUS – May 3 ‘Ought to Pass’

https://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/bill_docket.aspx?lsr=2167&sy=2018&txtsessionyear=2018&txtbillnumber=hb1233&sortoption=&q=1

OPTIONS

Incentivization: noun. The action or process of making something (especially a product, scheme, etc.) attractive by offering an incentive for purchase or participation; the provision of (usually financial) incentives.

- Financial
- Plaques – Bee Friendly??
- Etc.
- Etc.

https://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/HearingReport.aspx?id=16667&sy=2018

Ref: Phone call 5/6/2018 – Griffin Roberge phone: 271-2878

Links as provided