

## **WARRANT ARTICLE**

Belchertown, Massachusetts

### **AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Agricultural Commission to represent the Belchertown agricultural community.

Said Commission once appointed shall develop a work plan to guide its activities. Such activities will include, but will not be limited to, the following: shall serve as facilitators for encouraging the pursuit of agriculture in Belchertown; shall promote agricultural-based economic opportunities in Town, shall act as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on agricultural issues; shall work for preservation of prime agricultural lands; and shall pursue all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural community. For the purposes of this article, agriculture shall include, but shall not be limited to the production of crops, livestock, horticulture, aquaculture, forestry, nurseries, greenhouses, and related activities.

The Commission shall consist of five members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Commission will consist of a minimum of three members from the active agricultural-based enterprises in Belchertown and another two who are interested in agriculture. Two members shall be appointed for a term of three years; two members for a term of two years and three thereafter; and one member for a term of one year and three thereafter.

The appointing authority shall fill a vacancy based on the unexpired term of the vacancy in order to maintain the cycle of appointments, based on the recommendations of the Commission.

1. Appointing authority: Board of Selectmen
2. Members need not be Town residents
3. Purpose of the Commission: to represent the Belchertown agricultural community
4. Guiding principles for Commission appointment: members should represent the diversity and scale of agricultural businesses in Belchertown

Mission: To promote agricultural-based economic opportunities; preserve, revitalize and sustain the Belchertown agricultural industry, and encourage the pursuit of agriculture as a career opportunity and lifestyle.