

SHUTESBURY FARM AND FOREST COMMISSION BYLAW

To establish a Farm and Forest Commission to represent the Shutesbury farming and forestry community, as well as other farming and forestry activities.

The purpose of the Farm and Forest Commission will be to support commercial agriculture and other farming and forestry activities in the Town of Shutesbury.

The Commission's duties shall include but will not be limited to the following:

1. Serve as facilitators for encouraging the pursuits of agriculture and forestry in Shutesbury;
2. Promote agricultural and forestry-based economic opportunities in Town;
3. Act as mediators, advocates, educators, and/or negotiators on farming and forestry issues;
4. Work for the preservation of agricultural and forest lands; Advise the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Historical Commission, Board of Assessors, and the Open Space Committee, or any other appropriate Town Boards on issues involving agriculture and forestry; and
5. Pursue all initiatives appropriate to creating a sustainable agricultural and forestry community.

The Commission shall consist of five members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. At least three of the members shall be engaged in the pursuit of agriculture or forestry, and all members must be residents of the town.

There may be one or two alternates appointed to the Commission by the Selectmen. Alternates may fill any vacancies of the voting members at a meeting of the Commission. The Commission may also appoint up to three non-voting advisory members.

In making its appointments, the Board of Selectmen is asked specifically to consider the intent of the Commission to represent the agricultural interests of the town, including but not limited to horticulture, silviculture, animal husbandry, floristry, forestry, and myciculture.

The terms will be as follows: Two members 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 years thereafter.

The Board of Selectmen together with the Farm and Forest Commission, by majority vote of the combined membership, shall fill a vacancy based on the unexpired term of the vacancy in order to maintain the cycle of appointments.

A true copy. Attest: _____
Leslie Bracebridge, Shutesbury Town Clerk