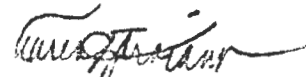


Town of Stafford
Special Town Meeting
April 26, 2022

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TOWN CLERK

First Selectman Salverio “Sal” Titus called the Special Town Meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the John E. Julian Great Room of the Stafford Community Center at 3 Buckley Highway, Stafford, Connecticut. Approximately a dozen electors, those eligible to vote in Town Meetings, and members of the farm community were present. First Selectman Titus led the assemblage in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Beth DaDalt nominated Edward Muska to serve as Moderator of the Meeting. Dr. David Mordasky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and Edward Muska was named Moderator of the Town Meeting.

Town Clerk Karen G. Troiano read the call of the meeting which was duly published in the Journal Inquirer on April 18, 2022, posted with the Town Clerk on that same day, and made available to those present at the Town Meeting.

Donald Bradway proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford adopt an ordinance entitled Right-To-Farm Ordinance, as posted and distributed this evening.” (attached)

Beth DaDalt seconded the motion.

Dr. David Mordasky, Chairman of the Agriculture Commission stated that he believed the entire Town Meeting was in favor of the Right-To-Farm Ordinance and requested those present to show their support by a raise of a hand. Those in attendance raised a hand.

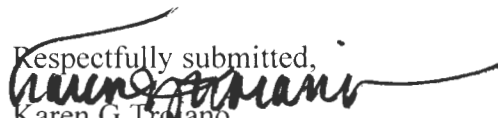
Hearing no other discussion, Moderator Muska called for a voice vote and declared the motion approved.

Karl Milikowski proposed the following motion:

“I move that the Town of Stafford amend Ordinance 1-25 Stafford Agriculture Advisory Commission as posted and distributed this evening.” (attached)

Dr. David Mordasky seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Moderator Muska called for a voice vote and declared the motion approved.

With no other business to come before the Town Meeting, Moderator Muska entertained a motion to adjourn by Beth DaDalt. Dr. David Mordasky seconded the motion. Moderator Muska declared the Town Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen G Troiano
Stafford Town Clerk

Section 1: Purpose and Intent

Agriculture plays a significant role in Stafford's heritage and future. The Town officially recognizes the importance of farming to its rural quality of life, heritage, public health, scenic vistas, tax base, wetlands and wildlife, and local economy. This Right-to-Farm ordinance encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmland within Stafford by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies.

It is the declared policy of the Town of Stafford to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products and for its natural and ecological value. It is hereby further determined that whatever impact may be caused to others through generally accepted agricultural practices, such impact is offset and ameliorated by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community and society in general.

Section II: Definitions

The terms "agriculture" and "farming" shall have all those meanings set forth in Section 1-1(q) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

Section III: Right-to-Farm

No present or future agricultural operation conducted or maintained in a manner consistent with accepted agricultural practices, which is engaged in the act of farming as defined in this ordinance shall become or be considered a nuisance solely because such activity resulted or results in any changed condition of the use of adjacent land. Agricultural operations may occur any day or night provided such activities do not violate applicable health, safety, fire, zoning, wetlands, life safety, environmental or building codes and regulations and shall include, without limitations:

- 1) The incidental noise from livestock or farm equipment used in generally acceptable farming practices;
- 2) Odors from livestock, manure, fertilizer or feed;
- 3) Dust and fumes associated with normally accepted farming practices;
- 4) The use of agricultural chemicals provided such chemicals and the method of their application conform to practices approved by the State of Connecticut; and
- 5) Irrigation and water management associated with normally accepted farming practices.

Inspection and approval of the agricultural or farming operation, place, establishment or facility by the Commission of Agriculture of the State of Connecticut or his/her designee shall be prima facie evidence that such operations follow generally accepted agricultural practices. Nothing contained in this ordinance shall restrict the powers of Stafford's Inland Wetlands Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Building or Health Departments under Connecticut General Statutes.

STAFFORD AGRICULTURE ~~ADVISORY~~ COMMISSION

ESTABLISHMENT

In accordance with CGS 7-131v there shall be established an Agriculture Commission to be designated as the "Stafford Agriculture ~~Advisory~~ Commission" (hereinafter referred to as the "Agriculture ~~Advisory~~ Commission").

MEMBERSHIP; APPOINTMENTS AND VACANCIES; TERMS

The Agriculture ~~Advisory~~ Commission will consist of 7 members and 2 alternates appointed by The Board of Selectmen in accordance to Connecticut General Statutes. Insofar as practical, members appointed shall be representative of all groups interested in the management, protection and regulation of agriculture, as defined by Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 1 Section 1-1q, particularly those directly involved in agriculture, including there shall be an ad hoc seat for one FFA (Future Farmers of America) or 4-H member for a term of one year who shall be non-voting member but eligible to fully participate in all discussions.

The failure of a voting member to attend four (4) consecutive meetings of the commission may constitute cause for the Board of Selectmen to remove the member and fill the position thus vacated. A chair, vice chair and a secretary will be appointed by its members and will serve for a term of one year, except for the 1st year the Board of Selectmen will appoint the Chairperson.

LENGTH OF TERM: Staggered 2-year terms, with initial appointments to be 4 members for 2 years and 3 members for 1 year; 1 alternate to be for 2 years and 1 alternate for 1 year. Members of the Commission shall serve without pay.

DUTIES: Advisory only

1) Provide information to local farmers and to municipal boards and commissions about the benefits of a balance between agriculture and other land uses; (2) educate municipal officials about agricultural laws and safety issues; (3) identify grant sources for farmers and municipalities; (4) enable a common understanding of agriculture among all municipal departments; (5) provide information and guidance about zoning issues relating to agriculture; (6) support local, regional and state vocational agricultural programs concerning agricultural matters; (7) provide conflict resolution and advisory services; (8) identify innovative opportunities for agriculture; and (9) create a climate that supports the economic viability of agriculture in the municipality.

MEETINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The meetings of the Agriculture ~~Advisory~~ Commission shall be open to the public and it shall comply with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Approved 4-12-2017

Effective 5-2-2017