

Medway General By-Laws

Section 2.21 – Agricultural Committee

- (a) There shall be established a Medway Agricultural Committee consisting of at least 5 and no more than 9 individuals.
- (b) The mission of the Medway Agricultural Committee is to encourage the pursuit of agriculture in Medway by working to preserve, revitalize and sustain Medway's agricultural enterprises, rural character and farming traditions. The Committee may undertake any of the following activities to accomplish this mission:
 - 1. Act as a spokesman on behalf of the Medway farming community.
 - 2. Advise the Town's elected officials, appointed boards/committees, Town staff and the community at large, by request or on its own initiative, on issues, projects and activities relating to agricultural lands and farming in the community, including land acquisitions and other land transactions. Develop, propose and comment on warrant articles, Town policies and procedures, and rules & regulations from the perspective of advocating and promoting agriculture concerns. This advice may include the presentation of oral or written testimony at public meetings and hearings before any Town Board or Committee.
 - 3. Serve as representatives, advocates, educators, facilitators and/or mediators in the resolution of disputes relating to agricultural issues within the community. Any such recommendations shall be advisory and any such agreements are entered into voluntarily by the parties involved.
 - 4. Promote and support agricultural based economic opportunities in the community.
 - 5. Pursue initiatives appropriate to creating, retaining, and sustaining an agricultural community in Medway including but not limited to farm based recreational activities and agritourism opportunities.
 - 6. Work to preserve, protect and improve private and public agricultural lands & resources.
 - 7. Engage in projects and activities to promote farming including educational programs and special community events.
 - 8. Perform such other duties as the Board of Selectmen may determine in response to the need to encourage agriculture in Medway or as may be authorized by other Town bylaws.
- (c) The Agricultural Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen following an active recruitment process. Committee members shall serve 3 year staggered terms with one-third of the first members appointed for a 3 year term, one-third for a 2 year term and the remaining initial members appointed for a 1 year term. Thereafter, each member shall serve for 3 years or until his successor has been appointed. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee may make recommendations for persons to fill vacancies on the Committee. To maintain the staggered cycle of terms, appointments to fill vacancies shall be based on the unexpired term of the open position.
- (d) Members of the Agricultural Committee shall either reside in the community or own agricultural property in Medway. A majority of the Agricultural Committee members shall be actively engaged in the business of farming or related agricultural industries. The remaining members shall have a background, expertise, or a demonstrated interest in or an affinity for farming and agricultural traditions. Non-voting associate members who are supporters or friends of Medway farming and agriculture may also be appointed for 1 year terms.