

Enabling Statutes: Forming an Agricultural Commission in Your Town or City

674:44-e Agricultural Commission. – An agricultural commission may be established in accordance with RSA 673 for the proper recognition, promotion, enhancement, encouragement, use, management, and protection of agriculture and agricultural resources, tangible or intangible, that are valued for their economic, aesthetic, cultural, historic, or community significance within their natural, built, or cultural contexts. The word “agriculture” shall include the entirety of RSA 21:34-a, which is the definition of farm, agriculture, and farming.

Source. 2007, 266:1, eff. Aug. 28, 2007.

674:44-f Powers. – Agricultural commissions shall have advisory and review authority and other duties as follows:

- I. Survey and inventory all agricultural resources.
- II. Conduct activities to recognize, promote, enhance, and encourage agriculture, agricultural resources, and agricultural-based economic opportunities.
- III. Assist the planning board, as requested, in the development and review of those sections of the master plan which address agricultural resources.
- IV. Advise, upon request, local agencies and other local boards in their review of requests on matters affecting or potentially affecting agricultural resources.
- V. Coordinate activities with appropriate service organizations and non-profit groups.
- VI. Publicize and report its activities.
- VII. Hire consultants and contractors as needed.
- VIII. Receive gifts of money to assist in carrying out its purpose.
- IX. Hold meetings and hearings necessary to carry out its duties.

Source. 2007, 266:1, eff. Aug. 28, 2007.

674:44-g Appropriations Authorized. –

- I. A town or city, having established an agricultural commission under this subdivision, may appropriate money as deemed necessary to carry out its purposes. The whole or any part of money so appropriated in any year and any gifts of money received pursuant to RSA 674:44-f shall be placed in an agricultural fund and allowed to accumulate from year to year.
- II. The town treasurer, pursuant to RSA 41:29, shall have custody of all moneys in the agricultural fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the agricultural commission. The disbursement of agricultural funds shall be authorized by a majority of the agricultural commission. The use of such funds shall not be for the purchase of any interest in real property.

Source. 2007, 266:1, eff. Aug. 28, 2007.