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Agriculture plan deserves support

Thomas Kalal East Lyme

Our town government tells me that "we support agriculture, we think farming is a good thing, let's have a farmers market, we like buying local fresh food."

This month our Board of Selectmen will discuss and ultimately vote upon a proposal put forth by the Conservation of Natural Resource Commission that will back up the rhetoric.

This proposal is for an Agriculture Commission. At least 20 towns in Connecticut now have Ag commissions, and are making good use of them. This is the first step to becoming a farm friendly town.

Ag Coms provide a conduit of information for farmers and townspeople. It educates all our town departments on appropriate language needed to support agriculture. Ag Coms help link farm land with "want-to-be-farmers". Ag coms help create farmers markets, can connect landowners with land preservation agencies, and the list goes on.

An Ag Com is staffed by volunteers with minimal town staff guidance, and will cost the town a small amount of money, hundreds of dollars.

The Board of Selectmen may vote on this issue at its Wednesday meeting, 7:30 p.m. For the sake of keeping our land beautiful, stabilizing our tax base and providing healthy food, please attend and support the proposed commission.
