

October 1,2020

The thought of regulating agriculture by people not involved in agriculture is disturbing. I believe the agriculture problems in Raymond stem from a lack of education and not zoning regulations. Today's society has embraced the" NH Way" Growing their own food,producing products to enhance their families needs. Values that use to be passed down from generation to generation have been lost. These newcomers have the courage to get involved and learn how to provide for themselves. As they stumble and make mistakes we need to provide them with guidance and encouragement. NH Farm Bureau is a statewide agency that provides Ag related assistance. As the University of NH is a land grant institution, it's charter mandates assistance to its population through Cooperative Extension, which is in every county.The Zoning regulations you are reviewing from Durham are a good example of what not to do! The Department of Agriculture has developed an RSA defining Agriculture and worked on zoning and planning statues to address these issues.

I would strongly suggest a warrant article adopting RSA 21:34a the state definition of Agriculture instead of reinventing the wheel. RSA 672:1,III (a,b,c,d,e), and RSA 674:32-(a,b,c). House bill 663 enacted 9/9/19 made changes to all three statues to make the intent more clear and eliminate some subjective interpretations of the previous language.

Best Management Practices are" operational guidelines" not standards.Agriculture needs to be allowed in all zones. Ride down Main st and Epping st. Most houses 100 years old or more have barns. In a congested area where people didn't need transportation. They worked in shoe shops,factories and retail establishments. The rails station was within walking distance. They raised livestock and planted gardens to take care of their families. A look back in time sometimes provides us guidance for where we are now.

http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?id=823&txtFormat=html&sy=2019

An Ag Commission in Raymond would also be a good idea as enabled in RSA 673:1 and 674:44-e,f,g

Thanks for listening to an old sheep farmer
Wayne Welch