




# TOWN OF GRANBY

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 16, 2025

**TO:** The Granby Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** Mike Walsh, Town Manager 

**REGARDING:** Right to Farm Ordinance Feedback  
Planning and Zoning and Development Commission

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Please see the attached memo from Director of Community Development Abby Kenyon which summarizes the requested feedback from the Planning and Zoning and Development Commissions of the Right to Farm ordinance.

With the feedback received, I am looking for the next steps that the Board of Selectmen would like to see followed.

Thank you.



# TOWN OF GRANBY

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 2025

**TO:** The Granby Board of Selectmen

**FROM:** Abby Kenyon, Director of Community Development

**REGARDING:** Right to Farm Ordinance Referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Development Commission

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At its meeting on December 2, 2024 the Board of Selectmen referred a draft Right to Farm Ordinance that was prepared by the Agricultural Commission to both the Planning and Zoning Commission and Development Commission for review and feedback.

The Commissions discussed and reviewed the draft ordinance. The Agricultural Commission Chair was also in attendance to provide background on its development and answer any questions. Below provides a summary of the discussions and overall feedback:

### *Planning and Zoning Commission*

The Commission is in support of agriculture but questioned the need to replicate state statute in a local ordinance. It was recommended that the Agricultural Commission consider becoming involved with the update to the Plan of Conservation and Development, which will begin in the next few months. There was a consensus among the Commission to suggest the Board of Selectmen consider a resolution or policy statement that encourages and reinforces the state statute for farming instead of adopting an ordinance.

### *Development Commission*

The Commission is in support of farming and agriculture in Town, noting that the existing zoning regulations are permissive of agricultural uses and that Granby is one of the most horse-friendly towns in the area. The Commission agreed that efforts to brand Granby as agricultural-friendly should be pursued but thought an ordinance that duplicates the state's right to farm law, which already applies to all municipalities, isn't necessarily the best vehicle to accomplish this. The Commission also noted that the proposed ordinance gives a "right", which is unusual compared to other ordinances, and the proposed structure also differed from other ordinances. It was questioned whether the Town Attorney and town administration reviewed the draft; who would be responsible for handling complaints and enforcement of the ordinance; and which zones or properties the ordinance would apply to as agricultural uses are allowed in many zones and a property doesn't have to be considered a farm under the zoning regulations to have agricultural uses. The Commission discussed the upcoming Plan of Conservation and Development update and other opportunities to express and show support for farming's role in the community.