

ARTICLE VI. COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

DIVISION 9. NEWTON FARM COMMISSION

May 2, 2005

Sec. 2-360. Purpose; definitions.

- (a) This section establishes the Newton Angino Community Farm (“the Farm”) and sets forth operating parameters for the Farm.
- (b) The Farm shall be located on the parcel of land located at the corner of Nahanton Street and Winchester Street purchased by the city from the Angino family in 2005 using Community Preservation Act funds (“the Site”).
- (c) The Farm shall be operated by the city for the purposes of:
 - (1) Making locally-grown produce available to Newton residents and the surrounding community;
 - (2) Educating the public about sustainable and ecologically-sound agriculture and environmental practices, including serving as an outdoor classroom for Newton students to learn about locally-grown produce and ecologically-sound agriculture practices; and
 - (3) Preserving the historic character and culture of the last working farm in Newton.
- (d) For purposes of this section, “locally-grown produce” shall refer to farm products originating on the Farm or elsewhere in Massachusetts. (Ord. No. X-148, 05-02-05)

Sec. 2-361. Farm Commission; establishment; duties; composition.

- (a) The Newton Farm Commission (“the Commission”) is hereby established. The Commission shall implement the purposes set forth in this section and manage the operation of the Farm, as herein described.
- (b) The Commission’s authority and duties shall include but not be limited to:
 - (1) Developing a business plan for the operation of the Farm that is designed to achieve the purposes set forth in this section without placing an additional burden on the operating budget of the city;
 - (2) In the event that the decision is made to contract the Farm’s operation to an outside entity, the Commission shall establish a procedure for the selection of said entity, which procedure shall be provided in writing to the board of aldermen. The Commission shall conduct the selection process, at the conclusion of which the Commission shall execute a written agreement between the city and said entity, subject to the approval of the mayor;
 - (3) Any such contract, as described in paragraph 2, shall require that the contractor at its expense provide the Commission with the following financial reports: NEWTON CODE ONLINE □
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- a) detailed quarterly revenue and expenditure reports, in a format approved by the City Comptroller, not later than 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter;
- b) independently audited annual financial statements within 90 days after the conclusion of each fiscal year.
- (4) The Commission shall meet with the Commissioner of Public Buildings at least semi-annually to review with him the condition and needs of the existing buildings on the Site and to discuss the construction of any contemplated future buildings for the Site.
- (5) The Commission shall oversee the operating expenses and revenue associated with the operation of the Farm and provide to the mayor and board of aldermen annual written reports pertaining to the Farm's operation and performance with regard to the Farm's purposes, as set forth in this section.
- (6) The Commission shall develop policies and procedures for the operation of the Farm. The Commission shall hold a public hearing on the initial set of policies and procedures prior to their adoption. This public hearing requirement shall be applicable to subsequent amendments to substantive matters of policy but shall not be applicable to amendments to matters of procedure. The Commission shall also provide in writing to the mayor, board of aldermen, and city clerk the final version of the policies and procedures upon their adoption.
- (7) The Commission shall make all reasonable efforts to comply with the standards for organic processes outlined by the Baystate Organic Certifiers.
- (8) The Commission shall afford the public the opportunity to purchase produce at the Site.
- (c) The Commission shall consist of nine (9) members as follows:
 - (1) One at-large citizen appointee of the board of aldermen who will serve a three (3) year term.
 - (2) One (1) member of the Conservation Commission, one (1) member of the Historical Commission, and one (1) member of the Parks & Recreation Commission, each of whom shall be selected by the members of the body they represent. They shall each serve for terms of three (3) years or until their successors shall take office. However, in order to provide for staggered terms, the initial appointments shall be as follows:
 - a) The designee of the Historical Commission shall serve for a one (1) year term; the designee of the Conservation Commission shall serve for a two (2) year term and the designee of the Parks and Recreation Commission shall serve for a three (3) year term.
 - (3) The remaining five members shall be appointed in accordance with section 2-8 of the city ordinances. The appointed members shall include at least one citizen with expertise in farming or agriculture, at least one citizen with expertise in finance or accounting, at least one citizen with expertise in operating a retail or wholesale business, and at least one member with expertise in sustainable environmental practices.
 - (d) Appointed members shall serve for terms of three (3) years or until their successors shall take office. However, in order to provide staggered terms for appointed members, the initial appointments shall be as follows: One member shall be appointed for a one year term; two members shall be appointed for a two year term; and two members shall be appointed for a three year term. (Ord. No. X-148, 05-02-05; Ord. No. X-166, 08-08-05)

HISTORICAL COMM REV OF FARM

Sec. 2-362. Historical Commission Review of Farm Improvements. NEWTON CODE ONLINE □ ADMINISTRATION § 2-362T Chapter 2 – page 38

Proposed changes to the exterior of structures on the Site as well as any proposed new construction on the Site shall be subject to review by the Newton Historical Commission for consistency with the Farm's historic character. Prior to implementation of proposed improvements, the Farm Commission shall consider any recommendations of the Historical Commission and provide, in writing, to the Historical Commission, mayor, and board of aldermen its reasons for rejecting any such recommendations that are not accepted. The provisions of this paragraph will be superseded by any ordinance adopted to provide Historical Commission authority over city owned properties of a historic nature. (Ord. No. X-148, 05-02-05)