

TOWN OF WASHINGTON, NEW YORK

Resolution Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2025

A Local Law Amending and Restating the Town's Right-to-Farm Law

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Washington ("Town Board") recognizes the communal importance of the Town's agricultural heritage and the need to maintain and preserve the agricultural character of the Town, protect the existence and operation of farms, and promote practical mechanisms to resolve disputes concerning agricultural practices;

WHEREAS, the Town Board has before it a proposed local law entitled "Right-to-Farm Law (Amended and Restated)" which, among other things, affirms the Town's right-to-farm policy, defines key terms, declares certain agricultural practices to be reasonable and not a nuisance, provides notice to real-property purchasers and occupants, establishes an Agricultural Advisory Committee and a dispute-resolution process, and states that adoption is a Type II action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA");

WHEREAS, the proposed local law is intended to be consistent with New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, including (but not limited to) §§ 283-a, 305-b, 308, and 310; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to introduce said local law for consideration and to schedule a public hearing thereon;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Washington, Dutchess County, New York, as follows:

1. Introduction of Local Law. Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2025, entitled "Right-to-Farm Law (Amended and Restated)" (the "Proposed Local Law"), in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby introduced for consideration.
2. SEQRA. The Town Board hereby preliminarily determines that adoption of the Proposed Local Law constitutes a Type II action under 6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(20) and (27) and therefore no further SEQRA review is required.
3. Public Hearing. A public hearing on the Proposed Local Law shall be held by the Town Board on Thursday the 11th, of December 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 10 Reservoir Drive, Millbrook, New York 12545, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.
4. Notice. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to publish and post a Notice of Public Hearing in the Town's official newspaper and on the Town's website, and to post the notice on the Town Clerk's bulletin board, not less than five (5) days prior to said hearing, all in accordance with Municipal Home Rule Law § 20 and other applicable law. The Town Clerk shall also make the Proposed Local Law available to the public and to any interested agency.
5. Referrals. To the extent applicable, the Town Clerk are authorized and directed to make any referrals required by law, including any referral to the Town of Washington Planning Board,

Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development pursuant to General Municipal Law § 239-m (if determined to be applicable).

6. Further Actions. The Town Supervisor, Town Attorney, and Town Clerk are authorized to take such further actions as may be necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

7. Effective Date of Law. The Proposed Local Law provides that, if adopted by the Town Board, it shall take effect upon filing with the New York Secretary of State.

Moved by: Councilman Audia

Seconded by: Councilman Rochfort

Adopted on: November 13th, 2025 (introduction only)

ROLL CALL VOTE (on introduction):

Supervisor Ciferri: X Aye ☐ Nay

Councilmember Audia: X Aye ☐ Nay

Councilmember Murphy: X Aye ☐ Nay

Councilmember Giles: X Aye ☐ Nay

Councilmember Rochfort: X Aye ☐ Nay

Exhibit A: Proposed Local Law — Right-to-Farm Law (Amended and Restated) (attached)