

# THE MONMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

## MONMOUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD



### Minutes for a Regular Meeting of the MONMOUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**Wednesday, August 4, 2010, 7:30 PM**

Planning Board Conference Room, Hall of Records Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
One East Main Street, Freehold, New Jersey

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Chairman McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Buscaglia (arrived at 7:52 PM), Butch, Clayton, DeFelice, Geran, Halka, McCarthy, Obal, Potter  
Staff: Brockwell, Honigfeld, Messina  
Representatives: Costigan & Kryskowiak (Howell), Jacoby (Colts Neck), Dancer (Millstone), Holland (Manalapan)  
Public: Brian Decina, Helen Goddard, Daniel Lynch, Vincent "Jim" Spinella

#### **MINUTES:**

Mr. Geran offered a motion to approve the Regular Session minutes of the July 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Halka and approved by voice vote.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS**

Staff & Board discussed the July 7, 2010 memo from Susan Craft regarding green energy on non-preserved farms.

Chairman McCarthy shared and excerpt from a recent ANJEC report about "solar farms". He noted the importance of representing an agricultural perspective if these issues are discussed at a municipal level.

#### **REGULAR REPORTS:**

- A. Chairman: No report
- B. Staff: The proposed funding allocation for the FY2011 GSPT funds was released by SADC.
- C. Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Mr. Obal noted the strong fruit crops this year, low pest problems and good vegetable crops for those with irrigation. He commented on the Governor's statement regarding the equine industry and the effect it will likely have on Monmouth County's equine industry.
- D. NRCS (special report) Sharif Branham of the NRCS introduced himself and noted an August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for grants. Some new grant opportunities this year include those for energy audits for farms and forest stewardship plans.



E. Municipal Representatives:

Howell: Working on 1 farm on Casino Drive & 2 more applications.

Millstone: Mr. Dancer announced the Agriculture Council Seminar to be held on January 10, 2011 on Millstone Road.

Manalapan: Mr. Holland announced that the town is working on 3 farm applications.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Ag Labor Housing Request (Block 22, Lot 17 – Colts Neck):** Husky Farm LLC has requested permission to erect 2 new agricultural labor housing units on the 105-acre. Daniel Lynch, architect for the project explained that each unit would be 983 SF in size, the same as the existing unit. The basement will not be occupied. He noted that the township has established ratios regarding the allowable number of ag units per number of barn stalls. Colts Neck also has a maximum gross square footage of 1200 SF per ag labor unit.

Vincent James “Jim” Spinella, the farm owner, spoke about the current and future operation on the site. There are 8 employees affiliated with the farm, including Jim and Helen Goddard -- the manager of the farm’s equine operation. Several live offsite now. There are 4-5 employees in the existing unit. There is also a mixed gender, non-relative situation that is leading to problems with room sharing. The farm operation will focus on Christmas trees, horse breeding, horse raising and sales, horse boarding, hay production and alpaca wool. Holly trees and products, a historic component of the farm, are another possibility.

Pat Butch noted that the farm includes grazing areas and that this is not a dry lot situation. She recommended that the owner prepare an acreage chart of the various production aspects of the farm.

Of the 8 farm employees, 2 are involved with the general upkeep of the farm and the Christmas trees. 6 work on the equine side. 2 of those focus on the boarding component of the operation. The other 4 are involved with horse training, raising and the scouting of horses for eventual sale. The farm has 30 stalls in two barns. Husky Farm has plans for a new barn to store hay, farm equipment and straw.

After a brief discussion the Board recommended that the agenda item be continued at the next meeting to enable the owners to provide additional details about the operation and the employees.

**RIGHT TO FARM ISSUES:**

- **Status Reports:** A site visit was conducted on 7/27/10 in response to a manure complaint received in Colts Neck. In addition, staff is awaiting a determination from counsel regarding a complaint in Manalapan.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Board voted to move into Executive Session at 8:45 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.