

# 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, May 2, 2012, 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 7:33 PM.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Bullock, Buscaglia, Butch, Clayton, DeFelice, Geran, Giambrone, McCarthy, Potter, Stuart  
Staff: Beekman, Honigfeld  
Representatives: Chenal (Marlboro), Jacoby (Colts Neck), Costigan (Howell), Holmes (Upper Freehold)  
Public: Virginia Barrett, Theodore DeMaria, Ron Gafgen, Hope Gruzlovic, Joan Harper, Valerie Herenchak, Monica LaRue, Rick LaRue, Vincent Manning, Lori Moreno, Jean Sorrells, Jim Sorrells, Joseph Van Den Bogart

#### **MINUTES:**

Ms. Butch asked to add a sentence to the end of the minutes to note the planned additional site visit to the LaRue farm. Mr. Geran offered a motion to approve the amended Regular Session minutes of the April 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clayton and approved by voice vote. Mr. Potter abstained.

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

Mr. Halka submitted a letter of resignation. Mr. Potter made a motion to accept the resignation. Mr. Geran seconded the motion which was approved by voice vote.

#### **REGULAR REPORTS:**

- A. Chairman: No report.
- B. State: Ms. Gruzlovic reported that the SADC is reviewing comments on the draft Agritourism AMP and will reconvene its subcommittee. The SADC hired a new legal counsel.
- C. Staff: Ms. Honigfeld discussed the Peppadew Fresh LLC press event that was held on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The farm, which is in the process of being preserved, was awarded a \$260K Value Added Producers Grant from the USDA.
- D. Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Secretary Sciarappa noted that the recent rain was much needed. A cold snap damaged some fruiting trees. The USDA grant to Peppadew Fresh LLC was the largest ever received in New Jersey. Dr. Sciarappa just attended the NJAES retreat. The Open Space Pace event is scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup>. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is again offering its seed sterilization program.
- E. Municipal Representatives: No reports.



**RIGHT TO FARM ISSUES:**

**Request for a Site Specific Agriculture Management Practice Determination (LaRue Property, Upper Freehold):**

Mr. Beekman noted that the hearing was closed to new testimony. Ms. Honigfeld framed the questions before the board: Do the receipts sufficiently show that the farm's annual production income was over \$2500? Does the board need to deduct some income since a number of trees came off the neighbors' properties?

After some clarifying discussion among the parties, the court reporter entered various receipts into evidence.

Mr. DeFelice made some calculations and suggested that the Board would need to deduct \$3000 from the LaRue's income based on the DeMaria's documentation. He noted that he didn't know how much of the wood sold came from the Herenchek farm. The calculation assumed \$70 per cord.

Rocco Infante was sworn in and testified that he purchased firewood from the center of the farm. He was told that he could not take wood from the edges. In 2011 he took out \$1400 of wood equating to 39 loads in 3 days.

Some of the income for the farm was imputed. A board member wondered about the timing of imputed income in relation to grazing.

Ms. LaRue asked to show a slide but County Counsel reiterated that the hearing was closed to new testimony.

Mr. Geran made a motion to accept the LaRues' claim of more than \$2500 in production income. Ms. Butch seconded the motion. More discussion ensued about whether the members were comfortable that the firewood income derived from the landowners' own wood and whether some pending legal matters with the neighbors might impact the income level.

The motion did not carry. Of 9 eligible votes there were 4 "yes" and 5 "no". As senior alternate, Ms. Butch's vote counted (the CADB is one full member short following Mr. Halka's resignation). Mr. Clayton also voted yes but as the junior alternate his vote didn't count.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. LaRue wanted to know why she was not allowed to show her slide.

Mr. DeMaria spoke again.

Chairman McCarthy noted that the denial of the LaRues' request is without prejudice.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Giambrone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Potter seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.