

**AGRITOURISM TASK FORCE  
MINUTES  
March 19, 2007  
2:30 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM A**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marc Munaretto, Chairman  
Pat McNulty, Health Department  
Patti Nomm, Health Department  
Rich Tobiasz, Fire District Representative  
George Richardson, farmer  
Michelle Aavang, farmer  
Tracie Von Bergen, farmer  
Cort Carlson, McHenry County CVB  
Kevin Chrzanowski, Assistant State's Attorney  
Matt Hansel, Planning & Development  
SuzAnne Ehardt, Planning & Development  
Dan Volkens, McHenry County Farm Bureau

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Virginia Peschke, County Board  
Randy Donley, County Board  
Mary McCann, County Board

Chairman Munaretto called to meeting of the task force to order at 2:30 p.m. in Conference Room A of the McHenry County Government Center Administration Building.

**MINUTES**

By consensus of those present, the minutes of the February 26, 2007 meeting were accepted as presented.

**BUILDING CODE/OCCUPANCY ISSUES**

Discussion began regarding the various building codes which must be complied with when operating a commercial use on property. Copies of the IBC 2000, Illinois State Plumbing Code, ADA, Fire Code and a sample letter regarding a Haunted House proposal were provided in the packet of information forwarded to members of the Task Force. Pat McNulty provided a copy of Table B of the Plumbing Code for reference purposes.

SuzAnne Ehardt, Matt Hansel and Rich Tobiasz discussed building code issues as they relate to structures and uses in McHenry County as well as the requirements that may also apply from the respective Fire District. Discussion ensued regarding the inability of staff to waive or vary building code requirements

as they are considered to be the minimum for health, safety and welfare. It was also noted that the Plumbing Code is a state code requirement.

Discussion from the membership centered around the ability to recommend a policy regarding the acceptance of ancillary activities up to a certain percentage of the overall agricultural use of the property as a means of allowing some agritourism/agribusiness use of agricultural property.

The Task Force members also discussed the need to define "agritourism" and a review of the necessity of "produce grown on premises" which allows for minimum restrictions as opposed to just "homegrown" which increases the restrictions for the farmer who attempts to sell products grown elsewhere.

The "seasonality" of many of the agritourism/agribusiness uses was also briefly discussed and the requirement for conditional use permits which establish additional timelines upon the use.

SuzAnne Ehardt recommended that the appropriate way to deal with agritourism/agribusiness seasonal uses was most likely through the Temporary Use Section of the zoning ordinance and limit them either by number, by time frames, etc. This can be discussed further at the next meeting where conditional use issue/temporary use issues will be discussed.

#### Adjournment

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.